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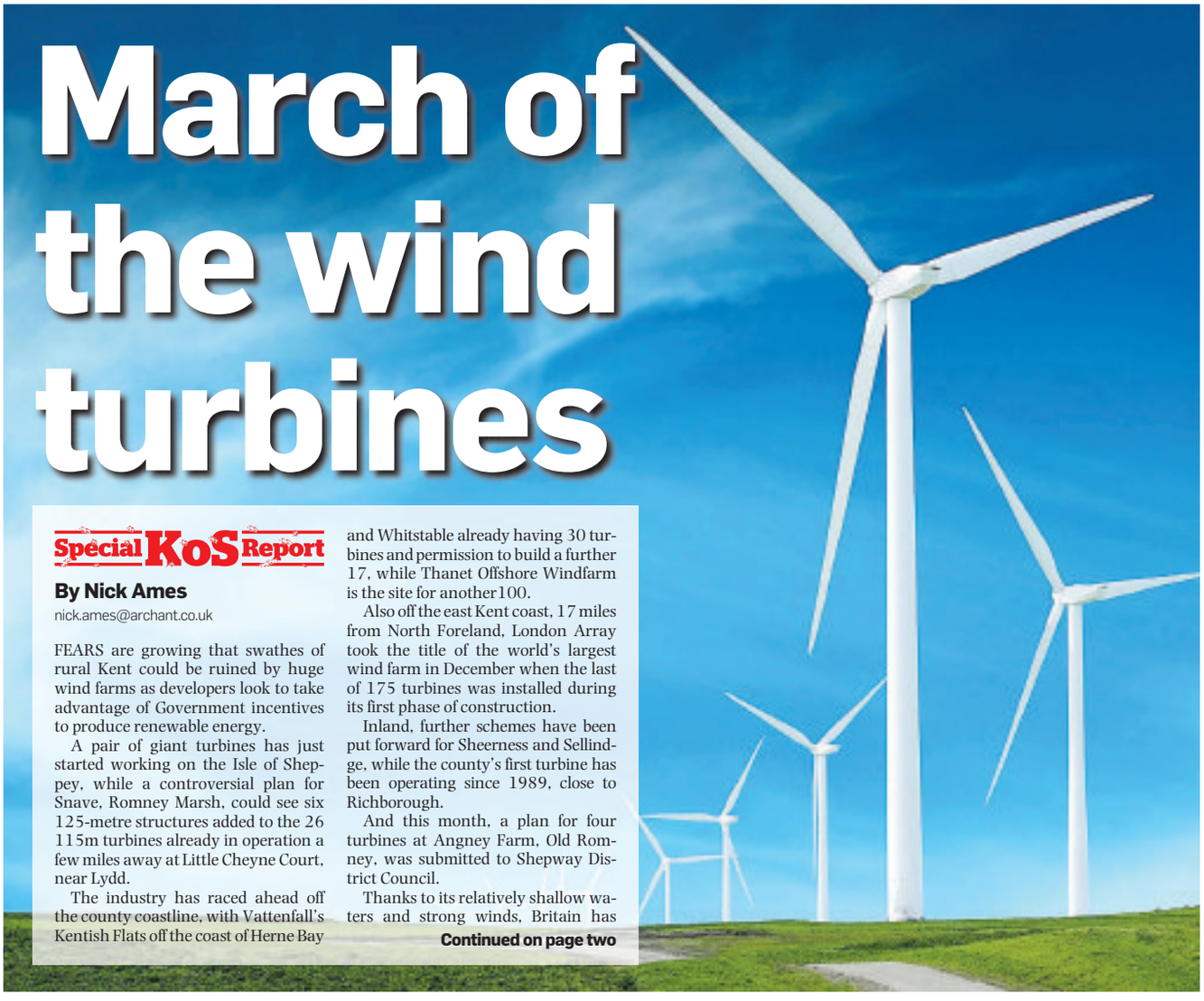

March of the wind turbines

Special KoS Report

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FEARS are growing that swathes of rural Kent could be ruined by huge wind farms as developers look to take advantage of Government incentives to produce renewable energy.

A pair of giant turbines has just started working on the Isle of Sheppey, while a controversial plan for Snave, Romney Marsh, could see six 125-metre structures added to the 26 115m turbines already in operation a few miles away at Little Cheyne Court, near Lydd.

The industry has raced ahead off the county coastline, with Vattenfall's Kentish Flats off the coast of Herne Bay and Whitstable already having 30 turbines and permission to build a further 17, while Thanet Offshore Windfarm is the site for another100.

Also off the east Kent coast, 17 miles from North Foreland, London Array took the title of the world's largest wind farm in December when the last of 175 turbines was installed during its first phase of construction.

Inland, further schemes have been put forward for Sheerness and Sellindge, while the county's first turbine has been operating since 1989, close to Richborough.

And this month, a plan for four turbines at Angney Farm, Old Romney, was submitted to Shepway District Council.

Thanks to its relatively shallow waters and strong winds, Britain has

Continued on page two

COURT

Ex-Tory council leader on trial

A FORMER district council leader took to the dock this week to deny charges of misconduct in public office.

Ex-Tory Sandy Ezekiel, now an independent member on Thanet council, is accused of four counts of misconduct in public office concerning the purchase of a property. PAGE 5

PROPERTY

The homes of our dreams

WHILE most of us can only dream of owning a mansion in the Kent countryside, for a lucky few it's a reality.

Perhaps rubbing salt into the wounds during these austere times, this week we reveal the most expensive properties sold across the county over the past year. PAGE 10

SPORT

Cricketers under cover

KENT County Cricket Club are just a week away from the start of pre-season training, but they will not be jetting off to Antigua this year to get fit.

Instead they will be getting ready for the new campaign under a marquee erected at the St Lawrence Ground. PAGE 62

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INSIDE

News.....2-27
Kent Remembered 29
Comment/Feedback 30-31

INSIDE

Interview 35
Food and Drink..... 36-37

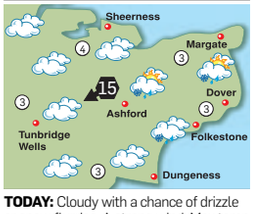
LEISURE
Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, ... 38-40

Business 43-45

Driving 49-54

Jobs & Notices.....55-61
Sport..... 62-63

Weather



TODAY: Cloudy with a chance of drizzle or snow flurries. A strong wind. Max temp 1-4C (34-39F). **TONIGHT:** Drizzle or snow flurries. Min temp 1-4C (34-39F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	10.12	6.1	22.31	6.3
Margate	11.15	4.4	23.33	4.5
St Mary's	03.48	5.2	16.07	5.2

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 5C	Min 2C
Tuesday	Max 5C	Min 2C
Wednesday	Max 6C	Min 1C
Thursday	Max 7C	Min 2C
Friday	Max 8C	Min 2C
Saturday	Max 8C	Min 2C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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Wind turbines could boost some businesses but campaigners fear landscape will be devastated

Continued from front page

more offshore wind capacity than the rest of the world combined.

The flat landscapes of Romney Marsh and north Kent are seen as ideal for their construction by companies that say they are committed to seeing Britain reach the goal of generating 15 per cent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020, as set by the European Union.

Wind farms are also seen as important to the Climate Change Act of 2008, which targets a cut of carbon emissions of 80 per cent by 2050.

However, opponents of the giant structures say they are a massive blight on the landscape, a hazard for birds and use up valuable agricultural land.

Developer Partnerships for Renewables unveiled its two turbine installation at Standford Hill prison on the Isle of Sheppey earlier this month.

The power generated is put into the National Grid, while the operators also pay a rent based on the sale of electricity to the Ministry of Justice.

It is also planned for the power to be used directly by the three nearby prisons.

They were officially switched on by local MP Gordon Henderson, who said: "I am a big supporter of renewable energy, not only from an environmental perspective but because I believe it is vital to long-term energy security in our country.

"Despite what the critics would have us believe, wind can become a cheap and clean energy source.

"Of course, where wind turbines are located is important. I believe these two turbines are in an acceptable location."

The developers say that careful environmental monitoring will protect wildlife and plants and the project will provide power for 2,900 homes.

Partnerships for Renewables chief executive Stephen Ainger said: "Personally I worry about climate change and no one knows exactly what it will mean for the future.

"Renewables are, in my opinion, an essential part of the energy mix and while they won't solve all the problems of generating power and cutting carbon emissions developments such as this will certainly help those goals."

Construction of the new turbines at the Kentish Flats site, six miles from the shoreline, looks set to begin in 2015, with power-generation started at the end of 2015 or early 2016. The company says this will enable power for 96,000 homes to be generated.

Goran Loman, Vattenfall's project manager, said: "Kentish Flats Extension will make a major contribution to generation from Vattenfall's large fleet of offshore wind capacity in UK waters and help the delivery of UK climate-change and renewable-energy obligations.

"The decision is good news for businesses in and around Whitstable and Herne Bay. We have already engaged with more than 100 local companies and hope many of them will win business from the £150 million-plus investment."

The nearby London Array was originally going to consist of 258 turbines, but this was cut to 175 to protect wintering populations of birds known as red-throated divers.

The Array is intended to generate 630 megawatts of electricity – enough to power two-thirds of Kent's homes.

Fishermen from Ramsgate are not permitted to enter the wind farms, but some have given up the trade and now work on boats supplying the turbines.

It is estimated that 90 jobs will be created when an operations and maintenance base in the town's harbour is fully functioning.

Thanet North MP Laura Sandys has stated she wants the area to become "a focus of renewable energy expertise".

But on Romney Marsh, locals are less enthusiastic, with those opposed to the plans for Snave pointing to the use of prime agricultural land and a blighted landscape, with the turbines 15 times higher than the nearby village church.

They say they fear the rush to obtain the cash incentives available from Government could blight the area forever.

Opponents also point to the fact that the existing Little Cheyne Court turbines, clearly visible from hills around Folkestone on one side and Rye on the other, are very rarely all functioning at any one time.

Sombre – Save Our Marsh, Block Rural Exploitation – is a group dedicated to battling the development plans.

Formed to fight against the Snave development, it has widened its scope.

Its campaign states: "This is not just about Snave, this is about the threat of 'turbine industrialisation' of the whole Romney Marsh.

"With current proposals identified in Old Romney and Snave, we fear soon the whole area will be overwhelmed. And the beauty of the area will be lost as prime agricultural land is destroyed."

Peter Faulkner, from Greatstone, runs a website promoting the Marsh.

He said: "The area is special with its history and its marvellous churches.

"Both the historic churches at Snave and Old Romney would be dwarfed by the proposed turbines.

"I don't even think they are very efficient – they don't generate power when the wind isn't blowing and if it blows hard they have to be shut down."

Developer Ecotricity says, however, that Snave is "an excellent site for wind energy with enough resource to provide clean green electricity to power the equivalent of 9,800 homes a year".

The company said its other proposal for Harringe Brooks, Sellindge, could provide power for 11,800 homes

Both plans are still in the consultation stage, however.

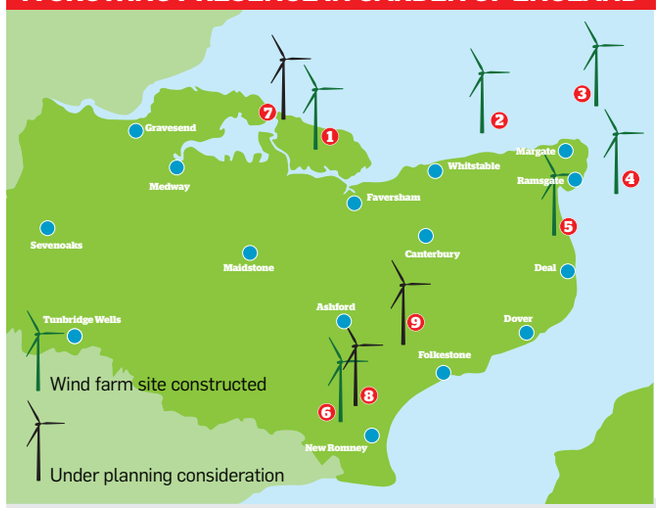
Protect Kent says that, while accepting wind farms as part of a future energy mix, it objects to the Snave proposal.

A spokesman said: "This project would visually alter the characteristics of the landscape in a drastic way.

"A recent survey looking at tranquility – a concept I admit it is difficult to define – rated the Marsh as one of the most tranquil places in the country. The flat landscape makes any turbines extremely visually disruptive."

Neighbouring Sussex has just one wind farm operational – a turbine that powers the Glyndebourne opera site – while in Surrey the only turbines are used to provide electricty to a TV studio.

A GROWING PRESENCE IN GARDEN OF ENGLAND



1) Standford Hill	2 turbines	5) Richborough	1
2) Kentish Flats	30 (17 more planned)	6) Little Cheyne Court	26
3) London Array	175	7) Sheerness	4
4) Thanet Offshore	100	8) Snave/Angney Farm	10 in total
		9) Sellindge	6

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FIRED UP: How we think Kermit and the gang may have enjoyed a stay at the dockyard

ENTERTAINMENT

The Muppets take Sherlock's lead and use dockyard for latest movie

By Joe Bill
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CHATHAM'S Historic Dockyard was invaded by furry little creatures as production started on a new film – The Muppets... Again!

Kermit, Miss Piggy, Gonzo and the gang were shooting scenes at the historic site in Medway, with Muppets fans peering through the fences to get a glimpse of the world-famous Jim Henson creations.

The new film, which stars British comedy writer and self-confessed fan Ricky Gervais, will be the much-anticipated sequel to the successful 2011 movie The Muppets.

The puppets were spotted filming behind the Old Ropery at the famous docks as well as along the riverside.

Chatham's Historic Dockyard has become a hot-spot for Hollywood blockbusters in recent years, having featured in films including the likes of 2013 Academy Award nominee Les Miserables and the Sherlock Holmes saga.

The Muppets... Again! movie would appear to have England down as the destination of choice for film-shoot locations, with both Clerkenwell prison in London and Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire joining Medway on a list of places desired by the film directors.

James Bobin, famed for being part of the successful production team behind Academy Award-nominated film The Fighter, will continue in his role as director from the first movie.

He said: "It's great to be back working with the Muppets – some of them even remember my name occasionally now.

"As for the movie, it's a tip of the hat to the old-school crime capers of the 1960s but featuring a frog, a pig, a bear and a dog – no panthers, even pink ones – along with the usual Muppety mix of mayhem, music and laughs."

Kermit the Frog added:"This movie takes us places we've never been before

"And, trust me, this frog has never seen so much international flavour. I think audiences will eat it up – the entertainment, that is."

Who knows where they will spring up next?

■ **The Muppets... Again! is due out in cinemas in March next year.**

DEATH

Body found by kayakers thought to be that of missing 54-year-old man

POLICE say they are not treating the death of a man found by a pair of kayakers in the River Stour river as suspicious.

The body, found between Grove Ferry and Stodmarsh, near Canterbury, is believed to be that of 54-year-old John Harvey from Minster, Thanet, who was reported missing in January.

A formal identification has not yet taken place.

The body was found by Ian Barrowcliffe, from Margate, and Ian Marsh, from Walmer.

"The previous week we had been out on the river and saw search-and rescue teams looking for the missing man," said Mr Barrowcliffe.

"We were paddling up the river when we saw what appeared to be a brown lump sticking out of the water.

"Water levels have been really high in recent weeks, but we could see it quite clearly, although at first it wasn't obvious what it was.

"When we investigated I saw an arm first and then it turned out to be a body.

"It's always traumatic, finding a dead person, but at least it may have given some closure to the family. They must have been frantic with worry."

Mr Harvey was last seen when he dropped off relatives in Canterbury on Sunday, January 19.

His car was discovered a few days later at nearby Stodmarsh Nature Reserve and Kent Police said his disappearance was "completely out of character".

A post-mortem examination has been held, but further tests need to be carried out to establish the cause of death.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sports clubs get boost

SPORTS clubs across the county have been given a major fillip through a funding scheme aimed at getting more people up and active.

A total of almost £850,000 has been awarded to 14 sport projects through the Inspired Facilities project, which is part of Sport England's 'Places People Play' Olympic and Paralympic Legacy.

It brings the total amount awarded to Kent to £1.9 million over the last three funding rounds.

Attack murder charge

A MAN aged 21 has been charged with the murder of father-of-five Paul Scott from Gillingham.

Robert Alderman, of Canadian Avenue, Gillingham, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court on Wednesday.

Mr Scott, 43, was allegedly attacked on Sunday, February 10, and suffered a broken leg.

He initially refused hospital treatment. He died from a blood clot four days later.

Wanted: new PSCOs

A RECRUITMENT drive for 60 new Police Community Support Officers has opened.

The new PCSOs, who will have a starting salary of just over £18,000, will patrol Kent's streets and engage with communities.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth said: "The PCSOs will play a vital role in keeping the county safe by providing a high-visibility presence, reassuring the public and assisting in the prevention and reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.

"I see real value in the work that they do."

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COURT

Prosecution opens misconduct trial against former Tory leader

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FORMER Thanet District Council leader Sandy Ezekiel appeared in court this week accused of four counts of misconduct in public office concerning the purchase of property.

The 59-year-old, of Crow Hill, Broadstairs, is alleged to have committed the offences between September 22, 2009, and February 24, 2011.

Also in court is Philip Emanuel, 64, of Laleham Gardens, Margate, who faces one charge of aiding and abetting the alleged offences.

Both defendants deny all charges.

The charges concern two adjacent properties in Margate's Old Town, close to the seafront.

One, 12a King Street, is a derelict shop, while the other is council-owned 12b King Street, a Grade II-listed two-bedroom semi-detached house.

Ezekiel, charged under his first name of Maurice, is alleged to have:

- Willfully misconducted himself while in public office by the improper use of confidential council information in respect of the sale of 12b to manipulate the purchase price to his own advantage.
- Improperly and dishonestly bought the property using Philip Emanuel as a 'front man' and failed to disclose that he was the true purchaser.
- Asked that enforcement proceedings be brought against the owner of 12a, Alan Douglas, to persuade him to sell the property.
- Failed to disclose his interest in 12b to the council or Mr Douglas until after the sale was agreed.

Prosecutor Alisdair Williamson said: "As an elected councillor, he had a duty to act in the interests of the council and constituents. What he did is act improperly and dishonestly in his own interests."

Opening his case on Monday, Mr Williamson told Maidstone Crown Court: "This is about improper use of the office of councillor in order to secure the purchase of two properties.

"The first defendant was at all times a councillor on Thanet District Council, moreover he was leader of the council for a significant period.

"The second defendant is the first defendant's close friend. Mr Ezekiel hid behind Mr Emanuel to buy 12b when he was leader of the council and then he hid behind Mr Emanuel to buy 12a after using his influence to ensure the owners were persuaded to sell."

The court heard 12b was owned by Thanet council and had been empty for about seven years. It was renovated, but a dispute with contractors meant it had not been sold.

The next-door property was 12a, a run-down shop that had traded as This 'n' That. Mr Douglas had bought it and obtained planning permission for development but later found that flood risk prevented any work being carried out.

In October 2008, the council put up 12b for sale at a price of £149,995. The price was dropped in January 2009 to £135,000 and the only interest came from Margate resident Sandra Blackgrove, who made a number of offers from early 2009.

"Frustrated, and with her heart set on this property, on September 22, 2009, she emailed Sandy Ezekiel as leader of the council to ask for his help," said Mr Williamson. "Mr Ezekiel forwarded the email to Justin Thomson, the council officer with the relevant responsibility, and asked to be copied in to the correspondence."

ACCUSED: Thanet councillor Sandy Ezekiel

Miss Blackgrove was told at least £120,000 would be needed, so she increased her offer.

Mr Williamson said it was no coincidence that Ezekiel's best man at his wedding, Phillip Emanuel, became involved.

"On September 27 a man purporting to be Mr Emanuel's brother viewed the property," the prosecuter said. "We say purporting because, although sadly he has now died, Mr Emanuel's brother David gave a statement to police that he had never been to view the property. On September 28, Philip Emanuel – at the time out of the country and who had not set foot in the property – made an offer of £121,500

"The Crown say Mr Ezekiel used the information from Miss Blackgrove and Justin Thomson. As leader of the council, he could not be seen to be buying council property, so he needed a proxy. He persuaded Mr Emanuel to put in offers and pose as the buyer when, as [the jury] will see, the documents will show he was the true purchaser."

When Miss Blackgrove increased her offer to £123,000, Ezekiel was informed and Emanuel increased his offer to £125,001. It was accepted on October 2 and the sale was completed on March 1 2010. In January 2011, Robert Patterson, head of the council's legal services, was asked to investigate the matter – and found Emanuel's name listed as the property-owner.

Mr Williamson said: "When he discovered that Mr Emanuel had been Mr Ezekiel's best man, he investigated further."

The prosecuter said Land Registry documents showed Emanuel had on November 29, 2010, transferred 12b to Ezekiel for no payment – but up to this point there had been no notification that Ezekiel had any interest in 12b.

> **He had a duty to act in the interests of the council and constituents. What he did is act improperly and dishonestly in his own interests.**
>
> ALISDAIR WILLIAMSON, OPENING FOR THE PROSECUTION

However, he told the court, Ezekiel had in fact provided all the money for its purchase.

Emanuel had claimed it was a loan, said Mr Williamson. But he told the hearing that documents showed it was always intended that Ezekiel would be the true purchaser.

The prosecutor said Ezekiel failed from February 2010 until January 2011 to register his financial interest in 12b. Under council regulations, in force nationally, he had 28 days to register his interest when the property was transferred to him.

The jury was told that Mr Douglas sold 12a, according to documents, to Emanuel in February 2011 – but the cheques for the deposit and completion were from Ezekiel.

Mr Williamson said: "The true reasons, of course, that Mr Ezekiel remained hidden during the purchase of 12a were that (a) it would reveal he had improperly asked for enforcement proceedings to be carried out and (b) it may have led to the discovery of his interest in 12b.

"Whether or not council officers had formed a view about 12a and enforcement proceedings, Mr Ezekiel sought in the clearest terms to influence that decision. The Crown say he did so with the aim of forcing Mr Douglas to sell his property.

"The Crown says that Mr Emanuel willingly aided and abetted Mr Ezekiel by, among other things, posing as the purchaser in both transactions by signing the deeds and transfers."

Ezekiel was first elected to Thanet District Council for the Tory party in May 1999. He became council leader four years later and was replaced in the position in May 2010. He stood down from the Conservative group in May 2012 and now represents the Cliftonville East ward as an independent councillor.

Ezekiel took to the stand to begin his defence on Thursday afternoon. The trial before Mr Justice Andrew Nicol is expected to last just over a week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jobless numbers up

THE jobless total has increased by more than 1,400 across Kent, putting an end to a recent encouraging trend of numbers falling.

In Medway the number of those out of work increased by 258 to 6,913 and across the rest of Kent by 1,167.

The 12 districts saw a rise, with the worst hit including Dartford up 119 to 1,825, Gravesham 138 to 2,567, Maidstone 189 to 2,536, Swale 104 to 3,512 and Thanet 104 to 4,919.

Prized antiques stolen

A VALUABLE and prized collection of ornaments and jewellery has been stolen from an elderly woman's home in Faversham.

The collection holds sentimental value for the victim, a 76-year-old who has been collecting for decades.

As well as a large number of items, such as antique jewellery and china and ceramic ornaments, a watch belonging to the woman's late husband was taken.

Search for arsonist

POLICE are hunting for a young boy in connection with an arson attack at a Wilkinson shop in the Pentagon shopping centre in Chatham early on Monday evening.

The fire, which appeared to have been started by a cigarette-lighter, was in the toy department of the store.

The shopping centre was evacuated. Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

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EDUCATION

Delay in conversion to academies blamed on County Hall fight with Government over debt

By Marijke Cox
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A DISPUTE between County Hall and the Government over who should pay back debt from Private Finance Initiative (PFI) once a school becomes an academy could be delaying schools from converting.

Peter Read, of Kent Independent Education Advice, raised concerns that the ongoing debate over payment could be holding up transitions for schools built using PFI funding.

A letter from the Department for Education to Kent County Council last year suggested that the transition of Swan Valley Community School in Swanscombe to become the Ebbsfleet Academy was being held up by KCC due to the dispute.

Mr Read said: "What this means is that KCC, which has responsibility for funding the PFI contract for Swan Valley Community School, is expected to still finance it if and when the school passes out of KCC control to central government.

"This is in spite of the fact that, as academies are fully funded by Government, KCC would receive no income to pay what is called the 'affordability gap'."

WAITING: Swan Valley Community School has not become an academy

Education chiefs at KCC confirmed to KoS that there had been "considerable debate" with the DfE over who should pay back the "affordability gap" once a PFI school became an academy and subsequently moved out of local-authority control. The council argues that the debt for schools no longer run by the authority should not fall on the county's taxpayers.

KCC's director of school resources, Keith Abbot, said: "The annual charge from the PFI contractor is paid for out of a combination of the PFI grant received from the DfE, contributions from the PFI schools and the shortfall, usually referred to as the affordability gap, being met by the local authority and/or the schools budget collectively.

"When a PFI school converts to an academy, the local authority continues to receive the grant from the DfE and the academy continues to pay their contribution towards the cost.

"There has been considerable debate with the DfE about the continued responsibility of the affordability gap.

"The DfE's position is that the affordability gap should remain with the local authority on the basis that the local authority is in a 'no better or no worse' position. However, this view is not shared by KCC and we have done all we can to make our case."

Swan Valley Community School is one of six schools in Kent to have been built using PFI.

Mr Read carried out research looking at whether any of these other schools could have been affected by the PFI debt debate.

He said: "Of the six, I discovered Holmesdale Technology College (Snodland) and The Malling School submitted an application to become academies two years ago, but there is no progress reported on their website.

"Governors of The North School (Ashford) planned to apply to become an academy in April 2011 but did not take this further, and there is no indication of the other three schools (Aylesford School; Ellington School, Ramsgate; and Hugh Christie Technology College, Tonbridge) applying to become academies."

KCC leader Paul Carter has spoken publically of his concern that academies receive more funding than local authority schools, with children at maintained schools being put at a disadvantage.

Academies benefit from state funding from central government but also receive funding to meet additional responsibilities no longer provided by the council.

They also have a greater freedom over how they use their budgets than council-run schools, which critics say are losing out under the academy scheme.

Mr Read said: "There appears to be an impasse between Government and KCC over the four schools wishing to become academies.

"In the interests of the children in its own schools, one can only hope KCC maintains its position and continues to block these applications until it is free of the debt burden it has incurred in providing new school buildings now handed over to Government control."

A DfE spokeswoman said KCC must continue to pay the affordability gap.

"When a PFI school becomes an academy, that academy remains a part of the original PFI project agreement, which the local authority continues to manage," she said.

"Many local authorities which operate a PFI contract are faced with a funding gap, commonly known as an affordability gap.

"The local authority funds the gap and must continue to do so whilst their baseline allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant from the department includes pupils at the academy."

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Man jailed for raping teenager in bathroom

A MAN has been jailed for seven years after raping a 16-year-girl while she was being sick in the bathroom of his Ditton home.

Aaron Raji, 23, formerly of Primrose Drive, denied but was found guilty of two counts of rape at Maidstone Crown Court for the attack, which happened on July 1 last year.

The young victim and her friends had attended a party at Raji's house on the evening of June 30. He had picked up the girls from Barming in his car after a friend told him that the girls would be interested in having sex.

Two of them later left Raji's house, but the victim and a friend stayed behind and were plied with alcohol. Feeling ill, the victim went to the bathroom to be sick and was followed by Raji, who then raped her.

After a trial in December 2012, Raji was found guilty of two counts of rape. He must sign the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely.

Det Con Shelley Rainer said: "I'm really pleased that the court has given such a significant sentence."

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TRANSPORT

Eurotunnel ferry operation could mean passengers will pay more, warns watchdog

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

STORM COMING? Channel operators are not seeing eye to eye over buyout

FERRY passengers could face rising fares due to Eurotunnel's new Dover-Calais ferry service, a competition watchdog has warned.

The Channel Tunnel-operator launched MyFerryLink last year after acquiring three ferries from SeaFrance when the stricken company went into liquidation.

It sparked a dispute between ferry-operators on the cross-Channel route, with P&O and DFDS/LD Lines stating that, with both the new ferry service and the Channel Tunnel, Eurotunnel had the lion's share of the market.

An inquiry was launched by the Competition Commission in December 2012, which this week released preliminary findings warning of a potential price-hike for passengers and freight customers due to the lack of competition.

It also found that Eurotunnel had chosen to acquire the SeaFrance ferries to stop DFDS/LD Lines from buying them.

Alasdair Smith, chairman of the inquiry group, said it seemed likely that one of the three ferry-operators would need to exit the Dover-Calais market, which he stated would be "better off" with just two ferry companies.

"It would seem that Eurotunnel moved into the ferry business because it was concerned at the increased competition it would face if another operator bought the assets," he said.

"Given that the company already holds a market share of more than 40 per cent, we're concerned customers could lose out from Eurotunnel increasing its share even further and being able to raise prices on the tunnel services."

The preliminary findings were welcomed by rival operators DFDS/LD Lines and P&O Ferries.

Carsten Jensen, senior vice-president of DFDS Seaways and head of DFDS Channel services, said: "We have read with interest the preliminary findings regarding Eurotunnel's purchase of the SeaFrance assets.

"As these are the preliminary findings of an ongoing investigation, we are unable to comment further until the final report is published in April."

Dover's Tory MP Charlie Elphicke called Eurotunnel's decision to buy the ships to stop DFDS acquiring them an "irresponsible and unacceptable business approach".

"There needs to be real and open competition," he said.

Eurotunnel chiefs have vowed to challenge the findings, stating that MyFerryLink helped competition in the market.

A spokesman said the company was operating within the competition rules and that French authorities had confirmed that it was doing so.

"We're not surprised at these findings and think our intentions have been misinterpreted," he said. "We think that having another ferry-operator is increasing competition and bringing additional choice for customers."

He stressed that the Channel Tunnel was a "completely different service" to the ferry market and therefore would have little impact.

"We put a bid in and bought the ships and leased them back to a workers' cooperative, creating 500 jobs, 100 of which are in the UK," said the spokesman.

Jacques Gounon, chief executive officer of Groupe Eurotunnel SA, said: "Eurotunnel intends to continue to work with the commission to allay the concerns raised by existing ferry-operators and to demonstrate the creation of MyFerryLink is a good thing for the market."

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TOP 10 MOST EXPENSIVE HOUSES SOLD IN KENT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

1 £3,350,000
Summerhill, Smallhythe Road, Tenterden TN30 7NB
8 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 3 receptions, July 2012

2 £3,310,000
32 Kippington Road, Sevenoaks TN13 2LJ
6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 4 receptions, September 2012

3 £3,100,000
Broadwater Hall, West Malling
6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 3 receptions, December 2012

4 £2,500,000
21 Clarendon Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1EU
6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 5 receptions, August 2012

5 £2,500,000
91 Oakhill Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1NX
6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 receptions, April 2012

6 £2,305,000
Mirador, Sandrock Road, Tunbridge Wells TN2 3PX
No interior information available, August 2012

7 £2,250,000
Rest Harrow, Sandwich
14 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, 5 receptions, January 2013

8 £2,194,000
Pond House, Brasted Chart, Westerham TN16 1LR
5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 receptions, September 2012

9 £2,100,001
24 Kippington Road, Sevenoaks TN13 2LJ
5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 receptions, October 2012

10 £2,079,000
12 Logs Hill, Chislehurst BR7 5LW
5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 3 receptions, June 2012

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Sawn tan 47 x 200	~~£2.75~~ £2.51
Shuttering ply 12mm	£11.97 each
Decking 32 x 150	~~£1.89~~ £1.70
Posts 85 x 85 colonial	£14.50
Spindles 50x50 colonial	~~£1.89 ea.~~ £1.69 ea.

	PER METRE
Sawn tan 47 x 75	£1.09
Sawn tan 47 x 125	~~£1.98~~ £1.78
Sawn tan 47 x 175	~~£2.30~~ £2.11
Sawn tan 47 x 225	~~£3.53~~ £2.84
Shuttering ply 18mm	£16.79 each
Decking screws (500)	£12.34 per box
Posts 85 x 85 eased edge	£12.50 each
Spindles 50 x 50 eased edge	~~£1.49 ea.~~ £1.29 ea.
Multi Rail 50 x 75	£2.48 per metre

Plasterboard 9.5mm 1800 x 900	£2.95 each
Plasterboard 12.5mm 1800 x 900	£3.06 each
Plasterboard 9.5mm 2400 x 1200	£4.46 each
Plasterboard 12.5mm 2400 x 1200	£4.54 each
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PROPERTY

Is there a multi-million-pound luxury house on your street?

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S the house most of us can only dream of. A country mansion with acres of sweeping, beautiful grounds boasting not only a tennis court and swimming pool but also a lake.

The stunning building, with its red-brick, ivy-covered exterior and white sash windows set on each of its three floors, could be a setting from a BBC period drama.

It's no wonder the buyer was prepared to dig deep in their pocket to acquire Summerhill in Tenterden.

The property is the most expensive house to be sold in Kent in the past year, for an eye-watering £3.35 million. And, not surprisingly, all 10 of our plushest homes were detached and sold freehold, with prices ranging from £2m to £3.35m.

Perhaps rubbing salt in the wounds during these austere times, KoS enlisted the help of property website Zoopla, a company analysing how well or badly the property market is doing across the UK, to draw up the top 10 most expensive homes sold in the past year.

Summerhill in Tenterden, with its eight bedrooms, seven bathrooms, three receptions, pool, gym, snooker room and more than 100 acres of farmland, came out top of the pile.

EXPENSIVE HOMES: Opposite is the £3.35m property that is Summerhill. On this page, a property on Logs Hill is the cheapest in the top ten, having sold at just over £2m

There are 143 houses and flats in the same road in Tenterden with a current average value of £568,098, compared with an average property value of £335,432 for the rest of the TN30 area. Summerhill, however, certainly stands out. In the past five years there have been 13 property sales in the same road with an average sold-house price of £576,730.

The building was marketed by Knight Frank.

A property expert at the estate agency, Tom Raynham, said: "Properties of this scale do not come on the market often, but when they do, there is usually a good selection of buyers. These can be those who are upsizing and even downsizing. Also, there are a lot of like-for-like exchanges as people move around the country."

Slots two and nine in our top 10 come from the same road in Sevenoaks. Number two is a home costing £3.31m with six bedrooms, seven bathrooms and four receptions, and, just a few doors down the road, ninth is a more modest £2.1m with five bedrooms, two bathrooms and three reception rooms.

Sevenoaks does well in the league, with the town appearing six times in the top 10 most expensive streets in Kent.

One is Philippines Street with an average price of just under £3m, followed by Parkfield, Wilderness Avenue and Grove Road on £2.1m. The most expensive streets in Westerham, Gravesend and Maidstone, averaging £1.7m, make up the rest. Sevenoaks is also the highest-value town in the county.

Lawrence Hall from Zoopla said: "Property values in Kent have remained broadly flat over the last 12 months, increasing just 0.36 per cent since this time last year.

"Average property values in Kent currently stand at £231,080. However, if we look at Canterbury and Faversham, they have outperformed the county and property values at these locations have risen – 3.71 per cent in Canterbury to £249,882 and 6.22 per cent in Faversham to £224,195 over the last year."

SUMMERHILL'S STORY

While Summerhill stands in all its grandeur today, it was nothing more than a charred shell 15 years ago.

A devastating fire tore through the property in 1998, destroying the original Grade II-listed Queen Anne country house. Firemen battled the blaze using water from the pond and swimming pool, but only a shell of a house was left. Luckily no one was injured in the fire as the owners were living in the coach house while work was being undertaken.

The property was designed and rebuilt in 2000 by renowned local architect Jonathan Gale.

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EVENT

Video-gamers can get a blast from the past... and dress up

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN EXHIBITION aimed at transporting gamers back to their video-game roots has opened its doors, with fanatics from across the country expected to turn out for the retro event.

Geek – Games Expo East Kent – celebrates 40 years of gaming and has more than 1,000 games on show as well as hundreds of consoles going back through the years.

Visitors will have a chance to travel back in time to their gaming beginnings and have a go on some of the retro video games, with favourites from Space Invaders to Pac-Man, through to Super Mario and Sonic the Hedgehog.

Geek is being held at The Winter Gardens in Margate and other venues around the town from Thursday to Sunday, February 21-24.

The event proved a big hit last year, but organiser Kate Kneale, from Marine Studios, said this year promised even bigger crowds and attractions.

"We are kicking off with a launch event in Margate's Old Town with Hide&Seek, one of the most exciting studios currently in the UK," she said.

"They have pulled together an international line-up that ranges from custard-punching to iOS local multiplayer applications, turning the Old Town into a hub of digital and real-world gaming activity."

FAVOURITE: Super Mario among games at Geek expo

It includes developers and their unusual titles from the US, Britain, Canada, The Netherlands and Denmark. Their games can be played at the Pie Factory, Media Centre and Margate Museum.

The Winter Gardens' two halls will house a makers' zone, food court, talks and the chance to meet developers. Costume play – or Cosplay – is also being encouraged, with visitors invited to dress up as games characters.

Cosplay is already popular at the big shows in America and Japan, and now Margate wants to encourage its own brand.

Organisers are expecting a flood of gamers to the town, with some making the journey from Europe.

Ms Kneale said: "We listened to what people told us last year, so this year we have multi-day tickets as well as special late-play events and thus far the feedback has been really good.

"I think it's helping people to really customise their visits. We know quite large groups of friends have got together to plan a mass visit to Geek.

"Several Margate hotels are now full, so we are hoping people will pass on bookings and explain how easy the loop bus is so no one misses out on their chance to visit Geek.

"We know people are coming from Sweden and France and we have a university from Derby bringing a large group, so it looks as if the word about Geek is spreading far and wide.

"The Geek team all have their own favourite 'can't miss' events – Cosplay is going to be big this year, so people are working on their costumes.

■ **For more information, visit http://www.geek2013.co.uk/.**

CRIME

Victim fights off robber

A MAN fought off an armed robber by kicking him in the chest before raising the alarm.

The intended victim had been walking in Maidstone Road, Chatham, at midnight last Saturday when another man approached him, revealing a handgun before threatening him.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to phone police on 101.

RETAIL

More HMV stores to go

THE HMV shops in Ashford and Folkestone are among a further 37 stores in the troubled DVD and CD chain that will be closed down.

Administrators at Deloitte confirmed this week that the two retail outlets would shut their doors within the next six weeks.

Altogether, 464 jobs will be lost across the country.

POLICE

Fatal crash mystery

POLICE investigating a fatal collision in which a Swanley woman died say few witnesses have come forward and it is unclear what happened

Victoria Woodbridge, 20, was knocked down on London Road at 6pm on Wednesday, January 30.

Only a handful of people have spoken to officers. Call Kent Police on 01622 798538.

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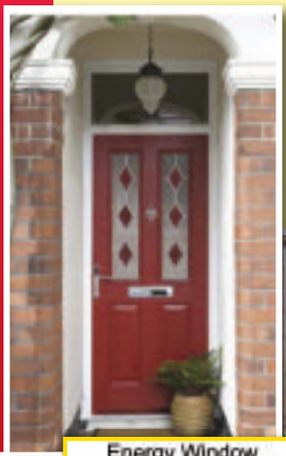

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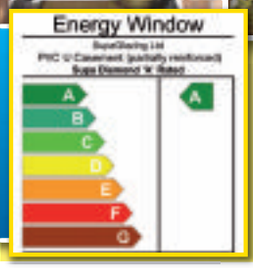

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EDUCATION

Ofsted ratings show sign of improvement

In the first of a regular column, former teacher **Peter Read**, who runs Kent Independent Education Advice, sees a dramatic improvement in Kent primary schools following changes to KCC's strategy

AS THIS is the first in a series of articles, and I have tended to highlight the negative features of the education service in the past, I thought it would be appropriate to applaud a major achievement by teachers in Kent's primary schools.

I have been highly critical of our schools' performance as measured by both Ofsted and Key Stage Two results at the end of children's time in primary school, but recent statistics show a dramatic improvement in Kent's Ofsted standard.

This follows a new strategy for improvement prepared by Kent County Council last year, and I have measured the change by comparing Ofsted reports recorded since September with those of previous years.

For the two-and-a-half years until July 2012, there were 278 Ofsted reports for Kent primary schools, of which just 41 per cent were 'good' or 'outstanding', the majority graded as 'satisfactory' or 'inadequate', and an unacceptable 36 schools failing their inspection.

Contrast this with the recent performance by 51 schools, achieving 63 per cent 'good' or 'outstanding', a massive improvement on the past.

This would have been even better were it not for the continuing dire performance of Maidstone's schools, which have a record of being the worst-performing district since I started keeping records. Every one of the six schools inspected since September graded 'requires improvement', the replacement grade for 'satisfactory', not one of which improved its performance from the previous inspection.

Of the schools elsewhere in Kent, there is a massive improvement on each previous inspection result, with 30 schools upping their rating and just four declining. Of course, this has all been done at a cost and the number of Kent primary head-teachers leaving their posts mid-year appears anecdotally to be higher than last year.

This improvement could be partially down to the new Ofsted grading system being more generous than its predecessor. We don't yet have national statistics to compare, but, given the uncompromising attitude of the chief Ofsted inspector, this would appear unlikely.

Instead, I believe it is because of a new positive attitude and higher expectations in Kent. Congratulations to all concerned, but do spare a thought for the casualties, often school leaders who have given their very best for their schools but have not been able to deliver, for whatever reason.

I compared these with Medway's figures. With just 12 schools inspected, this is a less reliable measure, but even here there is a distinct upward movement, with 50 per cent 'outstanding' or 'good', up from 34 per cent.

However, two schools failed the Ofsted since September, the same as in Kent.

On the other hand, St Nicholas CofE Infant School in Strood deserves special mention as the only Medway primary school to be awarded an 'outstanding' Ofsted in four years, out of a total of 71 inspections. Kent has achieved 20 in the same period.

■ **You can find a summary of school-inspection results, together with further information on some schools, on my website, at www.kentadvice.co.uk.**

What is Kent Independent Education Advice and how does it help parents?

Independent Education Advice has its roots in voluntary work with parents of disabled children.

I then began helping families with a variety of problems but now have to limit my work, focusing on school admissions and appeals, although I still try to give a brief response to any enquirer with an issue.

These contacts give me a huge insight into school issues fuelling my website at www.kentadvice.co.uk.

This now runs to 350 pages of information, advice and comment on educational issues.

I am also proud of a number of campaigns I have fought on educational policies and practices in the county.

What are the biggest issues currently facing education in the county?

Foremost is the divisive academy programme, politically driven, generously funded at the expense of county-maintained schools, and locally unaccountable.

As always in Kent, grammar schools create the biggest headlines, and while most non-selectives perform well there is a rump of poor schools, suffering from falling numbers that aspiring parents try to avoid.

Poor primary-school planning has built in too many problems, with Government putting obstacles in the provision of new schools where they are needed.

Then there's the crisis in new head-teachers coming forward to replace the high proportion due to retire.

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Picture: JOHN GOODMAN

MAKING A STAND: The Village Alliance's David Nuttley, John and Linda Arthur and Kathryn Swandale. Right, junction 10 at the A2070, near the proposed development

DEVELOPMENT

Villagers speak out over Dome-sized warehouse

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A SCHEME to develop a giant warehouse the size of the Millennium Dome on a greenfield site near Ashford has been slammed by campaigners, who have vowed to fight to overturn the contentious scheme.

Business giant AXA Real Estate Investment and partners are focusing their attentions on land between the M20 and Bad Munstereifel Road.

However, residents in the village of Sevington have created a 120-strong Village Alliance in a bid to oppose early plans, which are said to include a 17-metre-high warehouse with a footprint the size of London's Millennium Dome.

Sharon Swandale, spokesman for the alliance, which covers Mersham and Sevington, lives next door to the huge plot.

She told this newspaper: "We are opposed to this plan because this is simply the wrong place. Just down the road where the Comet and Homebase stores were is ideal – so long as they finally get round to putting in a proper junction 10 to the M20.

"But it seems this new development, on the proposed piece of land, will be taller than the local church. We are aware it is closer to the motorway, but not by much.

"This is a peaceful greenfield site and we don't need a warehouse the size of the Dome on our doorstep."

Ashford Borough Council is next month organising an exhibition to launch a public consultation on the proposal, which, it is claimed, could create 4,000 jobs.

But at her home in Kingsford Street, Mrs Swandale said: "We understand these giant warehouses only have around 400 people. We are all for new jobs and investment in the area, but not on this site."

A public meeting organised by residents against the 175,000-metre-square warehouse has already been held. Outline plans have been sent to the council.

An Ashford council spokesman said: "We anticipate that a formal planning application will be submitted to the council this spring.

"There will be a further opportunity for the community and stakeholders to express their views on the submitted proposals at that point and the application will be considered, taking into account all due processes."

The distribution-centre scheme is the latest in a number of huge plans for Ashford that are raising fears for quality of life in and around the town.

At Chilmington Green, the council is considering plans for 3,350 homes to be built by 2021, with the potential to increase this figure to 5,750. A new high street would be built with shops, schools and businesses. It is claimed that up to new 1,000 jobs could be created there.

Another massive residential development is earmarked for Cheeseman's Green and Waterbrook, producing 6,500 dwellings and associated infrastructure.

Protect Kent, which campaigns against overdevelopment of the countryside, said: "We are keeping a close eye on these projects and, once more details are known, we can take a better position on whether we are for or against them.

"Our concern is the impact it will have in the area."

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DEATH

Psychedelic rocker dies at 68

KEVIN Ayers, the founding member of 1960s Canterbury-based band Soft Machine, has died aged 68.

The psychedelic-rock pioneer died in his sleep at his home in Montolieu, France.

Born in Herne Bay, Ayers was partly brought up in east Asia by his stepfather, a colonial district officer in British Malaysia.

At Simon Langton grammar school in Canterbury he met future Soft Machine-member Robert Wyatt.

Ayers and Soft Machine toured the US extensively with Jimi Hendrix, but he left the band in 1968 after their first album. He then worked with

artists including Mike Oldfield and Brian Eno and released 17 solo albums, including Joy Of A Toy, The Confessions Of Dr Dream And Other Stories and Falling Up.

His most recent album was 2007's The Unfairground, which included contributions from a younger generation of artists, including members of Teenage Fanclub.

BBC Radio 6 Music presenter Stuart Maconie has paid tribute to the musician, describing him as a "legendary English musician, a stalwart of the Canterbury music scene".

Bernard MacMahon, director of his last UK label Lo-Max Records, described Ayers: "He was father of the underground.

"I think he always made music entirely for his own pleasure and satisfaction despite the fact he had this long career. I don't think he had any interest in being a pop star."

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TRANSPORT

Goodwin airport 'C'est magnifique', say French

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A CROSS-Channel rift could be on the horizon after plans for an airport on the Goodwin Sands were welcomed by some French officials.

Designers behind the £39 billion proposal took their concept to Calais in a bid to win favour for the venture, which involves a hub airport off the Deal coastline.

It has been dubbed by some 'Boursin Island', as opposed to 'Boris Island', Mayor of London Boris Johnson's contentious scheme for an airport in the Thames estuary.

During the discussions, Beckett Rankine, the maritime engineers behind the plan, promoted the proposal by explaining how it would boost the northern France economy and forge links between Kent and Nord-Pas-de-Calais.

The Opale Link Association, a French group founded to strengthen the economic, social and cultural links between south-east England and northern France, welcomed the plan, despite fierce opposition from Kent campaigners.

Spokesman Thaddée Segard said: "The presentation was very worthwhile as Beckett Rankine's team are coming out with an exciting option which does not carry major drawbacks compared to all the different options in the Thames estuary or existing airport extensions.

"We had a lot of visitors from various economic and political spheres and everyone seems to share the idea this project makes sense for the south-east of England as much as the southern shore of the North Sea. This airport could be a key cross-border project which could cover 15 million users on the other side of the English Channel with an advance booking booth in Calais and a Transmanche Metro service though the Channel Tunnel up to the airport."

But campaigners and politicians in Kent slated the plan, with Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke suggesting that any such airport should be located closer to the northern France coast if French officials were so keen for such a scheme.

"If they want it to be built, then they should have it closer to Calais towards Dunkerque," he said. "Clearly this is a plan the French feel would benefit them, but it makes no sense for us.

"First we had Boris Island and now we have 'Bonkers Island' on the Goodwin Sands. It's massively expensive and the transport links are too far from anywhere. It's pie in the sky."

The proposal is one of a string of suggested designs for an international airport in Kent – options that are currently under the scrutiny of an independent commission led by economist Sir Howard Davies.

Designers say the Goodwins airport would cost £39bn and include four runways over the sandbank, which sits 1.8 miles off the east coast of the county and 18 miles north-west of Calais.

Tim Beckett, director of Beckett Rankine, said he believed an offshore hub airport was the only option that could realistically provide four new independent runways that "south-east England needs".

"The south of England is densely populated and there are no suitable sites onshore for such a major item of infrastructure," he said.

SPLASH LANDING: Impression of £39bn airport

"Locating an airport at Goodwin will have the least environmental impact of any option. It is the most sustainable solution available.

But campaigners are steadfast in their opposition. Jamie Weir, of CPRE Protect Kent, said the organisation had "serious concerns".

"We remain unconvinced there is a need for any further aviation capacity in the south-east of England, but even if there were, the Goodwin Sands would be a terrible location for it," he said.

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STANDARD OF LIVING

Call for action as child poverty figures reveal high levels of deprivation across the county

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SHOCKING new figures have revealed the extent of child poverty in Kent, with some areas seeing more than a quarter of children living in deprivation.

Thanet stood out with the most worrying statistic, 28 per cent of its children living well below the breadline.

Even more disturbing is that, when broken down into wards, figures show one area in Thanet, Newington, has almost 50 per cent of children living in poverty.

Other districts have pockets of deprivation, while Swale, Shepway, Medway, Dover and Gravesham are above the 20 per cent mark.

In the Swale district, Sheerness West and Sheerness East have 46 per cent and 45 per cent respectively of children living in deprivation.

The data, which covered 2012, were published by the Campaign To End Child Poverty.

The organisation revealed the shocking poverty map in a bid to spark action from local authorities.

It also highlighted the huge disparity in child poverty between the different areas of Kent, where some districts have almost a quarter in deprivation, while others, such as some in the west of the county, have significantly less.

Child poverty is defined as a youngster living in a household where the family claims out-of-work benefits or working-tax credits when the income is 60 per cent or less than the UK average income. This means a family of one adult and two children surviving on as little as £258 per week.

THE FIGURES

Local authority	Children living in poverty (%)
Ashford	18
Canterbury	**20**
Dartford	19
Dover	**22**
Gravesham	22
Maidstone	**17**
Medway (UA)	23
Sevenoaks	**14**
Shepway	23
Swale	**25**
Thanet	28
Tonbridge and Malling	**14**
Tunbridge Wells	14

Enver Solomon, chairman of the Campaign To End Child Poverty, said: "Whilst the levels of deprivation in the South East are not as high as other parts of the country, there are still far too many children whose parents are struggling to make a living and are having to go hungry and miss out on the essentials of a decent childhood that all young people should be entitled to.

"The huge disparities that exist across the region are becoming more entrenched and are now an enduring reality as many more children are set to become trapped in long-term poverty and disadvantage."

Mr Solomon said that while he realised councils were having to deal with reduced budgets, he stressed that they still had "critical decisions" to make.

"We're calling on authorities to prioritise low-income families in the decisions they make about local welfare spending, including spending on the new council-tax benefit and on protecting families hit by the bedroom tax," he said.

The Green Party MEP for Kent, Keith Taylor, said it was "deeply concerning" that a fifth of children in Kent were living in deprivation.

"What's even more distressing is the prediction that more children are to drop below the poverty line," he said.

"At a time when the Government is cutting income tax for the highest earners, to drive even more people into poverty is inexcusable and shows a plain disregard for ordinary people."

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FILM

Kent graduates behind Bond's licence to thrill in blockbuster Skyfall

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SPECIAL-EFFECTS experts from Kent helped to make the award-winning James Bond movie Skyfall one of the best ever.

As the DVD of the film was released this week, it emerged that a team of graduates from the University of Kent worked behind the camera on the latest 007 blockbuster.

The computer geniuses helped create some of the film's stunning effects, including the longest action opening scene of any Bond epic.

Robin Walsh cut his teeth at the University of Kent's School of Engineering and Digital Arts, moving on to work for a digital-effects company in London before finding himself on the production staff of the Bafta-winning movie.

Other former students who worked on Skyfall are Amz Rattan and James Rustad.

The team had to perfect a variety of special effects, including modelling, animation, texturing, motion capture, lighting, rendering and compositing – all skills learned on their university course.

Mr Ratten said: "When I arrived at Kent, I had little to no technical knowledge of 3D visual effects or the inner workings of the industry. Fast-forward a year, not only did I come out with a professional show-reel, I gained all the essential skills to begin my career in the industry.

"The course fully prepared me for the role and I was incredibly amazed at how close working in the industry is to the working style I experienced during my time on the visual-effects course."

David Byers-Brown, a lecturer in digital visual effects at Kent, trained the trio.

He said the courses offered at the university in computer animation, digital visual effects and architectural visualisation were aimed at producing high-quality visual imagery.

"The courses use the latest technology and are taught in an environment that is intended to model a professional studio's working practices," he said.

"We are delighted to see so many former students going on to make a significant mark on the film industry, working on such huge Hollywood movies and household-name franchises, such as James Bond.

"The courses are designed with a strong focus on current professional practice, helping our graduates secure jobs at some of the best film-production companies in the UK and work on some of the industry's biggest blockbusters."

And as if Skyfall was not enough, the expertise of the graduates was also called upon by the producers of Les Miserables.

The two screenwriters of Skyfall, Neil Purvis and Robert Wade, are also alumni of the University of Kent.

Other graduates from the university have been working on Fast And Furious 6 and 47 Ronin, starring Keanu Reeves.

Picture: SONY PICTURES

LOOKING THE PART: Many of 007 Daniel Craig's high-flying exploits were down to the CGI trickery of three students from University of Kent

CRIME

Hit-and-run driver hunted

OFFICERS are hunting a hit-and-run driver who struck a dog-walker, leaving her with a broken ankle.

The 26-year-old pedestrian was hit by a silver car at about 2.30pm on Monday in Boxley Road at the junction with Curzon Road in Maidstone.

The driver reportedly failed to stop.

Call PC Ian Jackson on 101, quoting reference 18-0910.

LOTTERY

Fishing fanatic nets £1 million

A FACTORY worker from Hythe has scooped a massive £1 million on the EuroMillions Millionaire Raffle.

Ron Warne's win comes 21 years after his father won £250,000 on the Pools.

The avid angler said: "It's almost unbelievable to think that just like the previous generation we've had this win when we needed it most. I put it down to cracking good luck."

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TECHNOLOGY

Schoolchildren Y'z Up to challenges ahead by designing app to help teens stay safe

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A NEW mobile-phone app designed by teenagers for teenagers giving top tips on how to stay safe while out and about has been launched.

The app, called Y'z Up, contains facts and figures on the challenges they may come up against day to day, including advice on drugs and alcohol.

Designed by the Kent and Medway Youth Forum, the app also provides information on how to stay safe when out in the county.

The forum is made up of secondary-school pupils drawn from Kent Youth County Council and Medway Youth Parliament who regularly meet to discuss ideas about what they can do for the county's younger generation.

They came up with the idea last year and have been helped by Kent Police.

PC Godfrey Pain is the county's Safer Schools Partnership Coordinator and worked with the group on their idea.

"The first thing they [young people] think about when they go out is have they got their phone, so having this information at the touch of a button will make it easier for them to ensure they not only enjoy themselves while out but stay safe, too," he said.

Free to download, the app is compatible for both Android and Apple phones and tablets. The project was backed with cash from Kent County Council's youth opportunities fund and The Robert Napier School in Gillingham, which provided funding for licences.

Mike Hill, KCC cabinet member for communities, said that by using technology with which youngsters were familiar, they should stay safer.

"This is a really worthy project and well done to all those who have been involved," he said.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for community safety, Mike O'Brien, said: "This app is a great way for young people to find out about the issues that affect them, be it drugs or alcohol, and in a fun and informative way.

"Anything we can do to help young people to keep safe has to be welcomed.

"The young people involved in designing this app have carried out some really good research and I am proud they are taking a proactive approach to educating their peers about these important issues."

The app, which also includes games, was launched at Kent Police headquarters in Maidstone by Chief Constable Ian Learmonth and Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes alongside KCC members and Medway Youth Council.

SEARCH FOR YOUTH COMMISSIONER TO PROMOTE POLICING NEEDS OF KENT'S YOUNG

YOUNG people will soon get the chance to have a say on policing in Kent through the new role of Youth Police and Crime Commissioner.

The search has started to find a young person to work alongside Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Ann Barnes to bridge the gap between youngsters and the county's force.

Mrs Barnes says this could be anyone, from a college-leaver to someone who has been in trouble with the law.

The individual will represent the views of young people, lead youth-related projects and work with communities to capture their views and priorities.

Mrs Barnes said the recruitment drive was launched in a bid to reach out to younger people at a higher risk of becoming victims of crime or entering the criminal-justice system themselves.

The youth commissioner will earn £15,000 – part-funded by Mrs Barnes's £85,000 salary – but this may be higher dependent on age and experience.

It will be a one-year-paid role and three people will be given the chance to take on the position until the next PCC election. To find out more or to apply, visit www.kent-pcc.gov.uk.

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ROAD SAFETY

Speed-camera group changes wording on website after challenge

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE organisation looking after speed cameras across Kent has agreed to a wording change on its website following claims it was misleading the public over crash figures.

At the centre of the row between the Alliance of British Drivers (ABD) and the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership (KMSCP) was a statement claiming a huge fall in those killed and hurt at camera zones.

The KMSCP website stated: "Since the introduction of safety cameras in Kent and Medway, the number of people killed or seriously injured at camera sites has been reduced by 72 per cent."

Campaigners from ABD argued that it could not be proven the cameras were totally responsible for the drop and accused the partnership of misleading the public and "claiming credit" for road-casualty reductions.

The organisation lodged a complaint with the Advertising Standards Association (ASA).

Following a probe, the KMSCP agreed a change and the matter was "resolved informally" with the ASA.

An ASA spokesman said: "A complainant contacted us to challenge whether the claims that appeared on KMSCP's website were misleading and could be substantiated because he believed the reduction was due to a number of factors other than just the introduction of safety cameras."

The partnership changed the wording, with the key deletion being the removal of the word 'been' from the original statement, something to which the ASA agreed.

The full sentence on the website now reads: "Since the Partnership formed in July 2002, the number of people killed or seriously injured at safety camera sites has reduced by 72 per cent."

However, ABD Kent spokesman Terry Hudson told this newspaper he was still not happy.

"It will sound to the general public that any reduction in incidents is all down to just the cameras," he said.

"The wording may be correct now but sounds like a clever manipulation of English."

Katherine Meehan from the camera partnership argued that nowhere on the website did it claim cameras were the sole reason for casualty reduction on roads where cameras were placed.

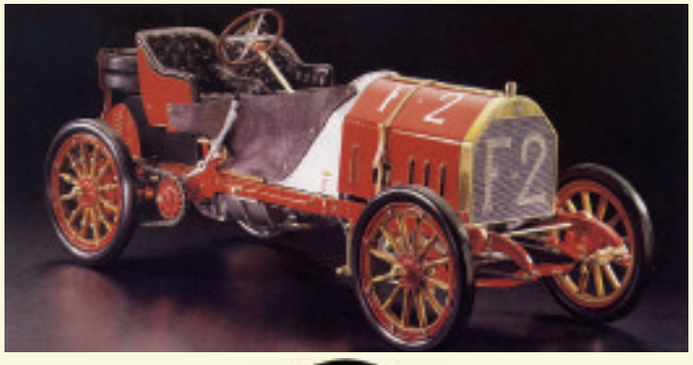
She said: "Despite the statement on our website being factual and giving clear evidence there was sustained casualty reduction across the county at sites where cameras are located, the ASA were minded to recommend to the ASA Council the complaint be upheld as they felt the statement could lead the public to believe reduction is solely down to the use of safety cameras.

"Rather than risk the ASA Council finding against the partnership we took the decision to change the wording on our website."

SNAPPY: Impact of speed cameras is disputed

ARGUMENT MAPPED OUT

- There are 77 fixed safety-camera sites across the county that were installed at specific locations based on their history of speed-related crashes resulting in death or serious injury.
- Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership says the number of deaths or casualties at these sites has dropped from 363 people to 103 between 2009 and 2011, although it does not state that speed cameras are the sole reason for such a reduction.
- Mobile cameras are also used around the county and the KMSCP says they have assisted in cutting deaths and casualties from 188 to 62 between 2009 and 2011.
- The Alliance of British Drivers, however, argues that the reduction is not solely down to speed cameras.
- ABD accused the partnership of misleading the public and "claiming credit" for road-casualty reductions.
- Research carried out by ABD found that 82 per cent of speed-camera victims thought they were driving safely at the time of their conviction and were driving just a few miles over the limit.
- KMSCP issues some 50,000 speeding tickets a year, with the majority of cameras being in a 30mph limit.
- A campaign was launched last month to remind motorists that when driving in a built-up area with street lights, the speed limit is 30mph unless otherwise signposted.



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SAFETY

I could have been electrocuted, says angry mother after vacuum mishap

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and

A MOTHER says she could have been electrocuted when she accidentally ran over the electric cable of her new vacuum-cleaner while using it – and warns that the machine's design could lead to a serious accident.

Sharon Armstrong, 52, from Chatham, went over the cable of her new Hoover upright and discovered later that something at the bottom of the vacuum-cleaner had shredded the cable's insulation down to the electrical wires within.

The school worker said: "I could not believe the damage it caused. I didn't hear anything and only noticed when I was wrapping the power lead back up and my fingers felt the damaged plastic.

"It was scary – something had cut the lead right down and exposed the bare wires."

Mrs Armstrong contacted Hoover about its machine and was stunned to be told by customer services there was nothing it could do.

A local repairer warned her not to plug it in again until the cable had been professionally replaced as it could be lethal because of the wires showing.

"Any one of us in the family could have been electrocuted. It was just sheer luck that I happened to spot it," said Mrs Armstrong.

"I am perfectly aware you should not run over the cable, but this is a Hoover, not a lawnmower. In this day and age it should not be possible for the appliance to grind down the hard plastic like this in seconds. Imagine if a child's hand was clipped – it would take off the fingers.

"I have never seen a vacuum do this to the power lead before – and I have run over a few of them accidentally over the decades."

In response, Hoover said it "takes all complaints very seriously... and this is an unusual one".

It added: "Without knowing exactly how this 'accident' happened, it's hard to determine why the cable was damaged, but it is known by all vacuum-cleaner suppliers that cables can be damaged if run over by the machine."

The Hoover spokesman said its products conformed to European safety standards and were independently assessed for compliance.

■ **Have ever you experienced anything similar? Contact us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

SHOCK: Sharon Armstrong noticed the vacuum-cleaner's damaged power cable after running over it

NEWS IN BRIEF

100,000 more donors

A CAMPAIGN to combat a shortfall in blood donors has been hailed a great success, with Kent playing a key role in achieving its goals.

The campaign set out to recruit 100,000 new donors in 100 days, with a total of 3,370 of the total of 119,907 who signed up coming from the county.

Jon Latham, of NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "A big thank-you to everyone who has supported the 100,000 new donors."

Teenager attacked

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a 17-year-old was knocked unconscious in an unprovoked attack in Canterbury.

The assault happened in the early hours of Friday, February 16, in Palace Street. The victim was approached just after midnight by two men, who kicked and punched him.

The teenager was taken to hospital for treatment. Anyone with information is asked to contact Sgt Alan Pedwell on 101.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Picture: LESLEY HAIGH

CARNAGE: A picture taken of Tontine Street in Folkestone after the First World War bombing raid

Gap in street bears witness to wartime bombing horror

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

TONTINE Street in Folkestone is today home to art galleries, a theatre and a film company. However, there is a notable gap in the buildings close to the Quarterhouse centre – it is a house-sized patch of rough grassland that still bears witness to one of the greatest tragedies ever to hit east Kent.

A small plaque on the footpath tells part of the story of May 25, 1917, when bombs dropped from German Gotha aircraft killed more than 70 people on a bright summer evening.

Shoppers thronged Tontine Street with the Whitsun Bank Holiday Monday coming and families buying provisions for the long weekend.

But, with no warning, a formation of enemy aircraft was heading for the town, after failing to drop their bombs on the primary target of London.

The aeroplanes approached from the west at about 14,000ft and the bombers attacked the town centre, with one striking a direct hit on Stokes Brothers greengrocers in Tontine Street.

Almost 60 people were killed instantly, with many others dying later from their injuries and more than 100 being wounded.

PAYLOAD: German Gotha bombers caused havoc

The cemetery and Royal Victoria Hospital mortuaries were soon filled, and the military hospitals at West Cliffe and Shorncliffe were also used for the injured.

The total number killed was recorded as 71 – 16 men, 28 women and 27 children – although these figures have been disputed.

Lesley Haigh has researched the tragedy because of her family involvement.

She said: "Two of the children in the street that day were my aunts, Gladys and Rene Riddalls. They had gone to draper's store Gosnolds opposite where the bomb hit. They were on an errand to buy elastic and had left the shop before the raid. They were both injured by shrapnel, one in the legs and the other the head. A lady they knew told them to run home up the street.

"On hearing the explosion, my grandmother Eleanor Riddalls had run out to find them and was searching for them among the bodies.

"When she returned home she found the injured children, but all the ambulances and doctors were overwhelmed so she cleaned and dressed their wounds herself.

"The doctor said later her thoroughness saved their lives as they could have gone septic.

"I understand people throughout the town were devastated for many years."

Some bombs also fell close to the railway station and only quick thinking on the part of a train-driver, who pulled up outside the station when he heard explosions, saved any further casualties.

Horses pulling the bus parked at the station panicked and a man trying to halt them, a butler called Edward Horn, was killed by one blast, along with several of the terror-stricken animals.

Outside Folkestone other bombs fell: 19 at Lympne, 19 at Hythe, two at Sandgate, 16 at Cheriton and 18 at the military camps at St Martin's Plain, Dibgate and Shorncliffe.

At Shorncliffe a total of 18 soldiers, including 16 Canadians, were killed and 90 others wounded – 86 of these were also Canadians.

Because of wartime reporting restrictions, when the attack on Folkestone was published in The Times on Monday, May 28, the headline read: Daylight Air Raid – 76 Killed and 74 Injured – 17 Enemy Aeroplanes.

But the locality was given as the south-east of England, which gave rise to huge speculation as to where the attack had taken place.

The Times reporter in Folkestone commented that not releasing the name of the town "caused endless anxiety" and two days later it reported "We are now permitted to announce that the town is Folkestone".

This was despite the fact that German reports of the successful raid had been published widely and had even reached Canada.

German records state that there were 21 aircraft each carrying up to six 50kg bombs and the formation was led by Hauptmann (Captain) Ernst Brandenburg.

The official UK report after the war stated that 163 bombs with a total weight of 9,257lb fell, causing £19,405 damage.

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OPINION

Changes that punish the poor

Vince Maple says that the Government's decision to award millionaires a tax break while targeting the vulnerable suggests it has wrong priorities

THIS week saw the Medway Council budget meeting take place.

I am sure most people are not particularly interested in the speeches and political debate that takes place in the council chamber, but this year sees a number of changes that will have an impact on residents across Medway and Kent.

These changes are being driven down from central government at an alarming rate, so much so that people are genuinely confused about what is going to impact when and on which parts of the community.

There are two changes in particular of which KoS readers need to be acutely aware; my view is that they are both vicious in their impact and targeting the most vulnerable in our society.

Firstly, there is the 'bedroom tax', part of the Welfare Reform Bill, which sees people who are in homes either through the council or another social landlord who are going to have their incomes cut because they have a spare bedroom – although the situation is not as simple as that.

We are already aware of examples including families who have members in the Armed Forces who will have their income cut, individuals who have care needs who will have their income cut, even those who have suffered the absolute tragedy of their child dying, who now face the prospect of their income being reduced – this, in my view, is completely unacceptable.

Then you have the Localising Council Tax scheme, which should really be called the Localising The Blame For The Coalition's Failed Economic Policy Scheme.

In Medway, we will see 14,000 people receiving council-tax bills they simply cannot afford. Again, those affected include people with caring responsibilities, the disabled and those working on poverty wages.

The last time we had a Conservative government, we saw the Poll Tax – a scheme that meant people were sent bills that they could not afford.

In my view, it is no exaggeration to state this change really is the Poll Tax Mark Two. People will be making the choice between paying this unfair bill or buying food for their household.

Although Medway is often seen as the home of Charles Dickens, you wouldn't expect to see us return to Dickensian conditions, but with close to 2,000 people in Medway already having to use our local food bank that is the frightening reality.

"This tax change really is the Poll Tax Mark Two"

Sadly, from that 2,000 many are children, which again shows the human impact of these Government changes.

Remember at the same time these two changes come in, we will also see the Coalition Government giving a £40,000-a-year tax cut to millionaires across the country.

Those same millionaires, if they live by themselves, will continue to also get a 25 per cent discount in their council tax – I don't think most reasonable people would see that as us "all being in it together".

Politics is often about priorities; it is quite clear to both me and the Medway Labour Group that when it comes to the changes that will have such a negative impact the Tories and Lib Dems have got the wrong priorities.

■ **Cllr Vince Maple is leader of Medway Labour Group.**

KOS COMMENT

Renewable energy is the future but at what cost?

OUR county, it seems, is becoming the capital of England's wind-farm industry.

With the number of turbines either planned, under construction or built growing each year, it's little wonder that people are concerned.

While there are few objections to offshore wind farms – except perhaps for the odd grumble that they ruin the view out to sea – it's the onshore turbines that spark most worries.

And quite rightly. Kent's historic landscapes should be treasured – they can't all be sacrificed in the name of renewable energy.

Most of us accept the need for 'green energy', but a sense of balance is vital. Some places are simply not right for turbines and, when that is the case, local authorities must not be afraid to say no.

Kent's made for Kermit

WE'VE had the likes of Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Jude Law and Robert Downey Jr filming at Chatham's Historic Dockyard.

And this week another legend came to town in the form of Kermit the Frog. With stars as big as this gracing our stage, who says Kent can't be the next Hollywood?

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River Stour, Canterbury by Maureen Wright, of Yalding

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Don't listen to propaganda

I WAS interested to read the opinion of Conservative city councillor Simon Cook on whether we really need so many councils.

Unfortunately, this is typical Tory propaganda.

From my experience they never do anything unless it is of benefit to the Conservative Party. Concern for locals and the country as a whole is always secondary.

The problem we have is the political system in this country and the fact we have too many politicians generally. In this day and age probably 50 per cent of those elected serve no useful purpose.

In my view, unitary authorities are not the answer and it was interesting that Cllr Cook used the Conservative-controlled Windsor and Maidenhead as an example when perhaps he should have used Medway, which is local.

Medway has to rely on Kent County Council for services that it does not or cannot supply itself and a similar situation applies to all unitary authorities in this country.

Kent has a particular problem in that we have a Conservative monopoly.

A view that I share with many residents is that, yes, we do need improvement in our political system and the first layer to go should be all MEPs. We then need to reduce the number of county and district councillors by 50 per cent.

We really do not need 84 county councillors and we certainly do not need 50 local councillors to run Canterbury.

Mike Tibby, Herne Bay

Get rid of the county council

I HEARTILY agree with the proposal to abolish Kent County Council.

The sooner it is disbanded the better it will be in all areas in Kent and then we can look forward to dealing with our respective local authorities, which are more understanding of the grassroots requirements of ratepayers.

GJ Anderson, Folkestone

Manston is the way forward

IT is good to hear (KoS, Feb 10) that Kent MPs still think Boris Island is a "bonkers" idea.

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson repeats this, though it is puzzling that he still wants to expand Heathrow. With all the traffic delays and chaos on the M25, and the hours of waiting to catch or meet planes, we certainly don't need any more flying in there. As he says, there should be more use of airports like Manston.

Joan Darwell from the Friends of North Kent Marshes talks about "concreting over globally important wetlands and communities", but that only applies in north-west Kent, at a site like Cliffe. That proposal is, thank goodness, dead and buried.

But in the north-east of Kent there are no such special sites threatened by the continued use of Manston. Perhaps Ms Darwell should make it clear that her friends group has no objection to greater use of Manston – a view already expressed by those in the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

From April, planes will be flying from Manston straight out over the sea to Amsterdam, from where they will be able to reach more than 100 international destinations. That is great for east and mid Kent, and no threat to anyone.

Nicholas Reed, chairman, Why Not Manston?

Bring us subs, not planes

SITING the much-needed hub airport on the Thames estuary could not only end the 'sticking plaster' proposals – another runway at Heathrow (surely the UK's most populated place) or a second at Gatwick – but would also rule out this area when Scotland goes independent and a new site for the UK's nuclear submarine base is selected.

Swap the Clyde estuary for the Thames estuary and renew this region's historic naval traditions. Subs are discreet and silent. Even birdwatchers would have difficulty opposing this one.

Bill McMillan, Cowden

No one agrees with Labour

THE Labour Party has only one proposition: tax, tax, tax and spend, spend, spend. This policy is obviously wrong and only liked by the client state that Labour has created.

What is interesting is that the working classes of Kent have such little regard for such policies and the people who espouse them.

If Ed Miliband meets any groups that are truly representative of Kent, then he can expect only abuse.

Robert Chillcott

Independents are the future

THE article (KoS, Feb 17) about Labour's efforts to gain a foothold in Kent politics is a 'red' herring.

The real story is about the growth in support for independent politicians.

Take the police-commissioner elections. Who would have imagined a couple of years ago that independents such as Ann Barnes would capture almost 30 per cent of the vote, secure the second highest number of commissioners and leave behind the Tory, Lib Dem and Labour parties in their strongholds?

The growing success of independents is because the big three parties are moving rapidly towards extinction, creating space for leaner, fitter, more adaptable politicians.

This is borne out by research by the House of Commons library, which shows membership of the big three amounts to only 1 per cent of the population compared with 4 per cent 30 years ago. Their membership is also becoming older, with most aged 50-plus.

So why the decline? One explanation is that the big three are so focused on seeking and staying in power that they have overlooked the importance of community campaigning, giving the impression that they are disinterested in their voters.

Another view is that they espouse almost identical polices, offering no real choice. Last but not least, the outrageous political scandals of cash for questions, lobbying for big business and the plain and simple greed of the MP expenses gravy train have brought politicians and their parties into disrepute.

So what's the point in worrying about whether Miliband or Clegg can replace Kent's blue hue? Let's focus instead on the multi-coloured rainbow that independent politicians will paint when we begin the campaign for the Kent County Council elections.

Cllr Ian Driver (Independent) Thanet District Council

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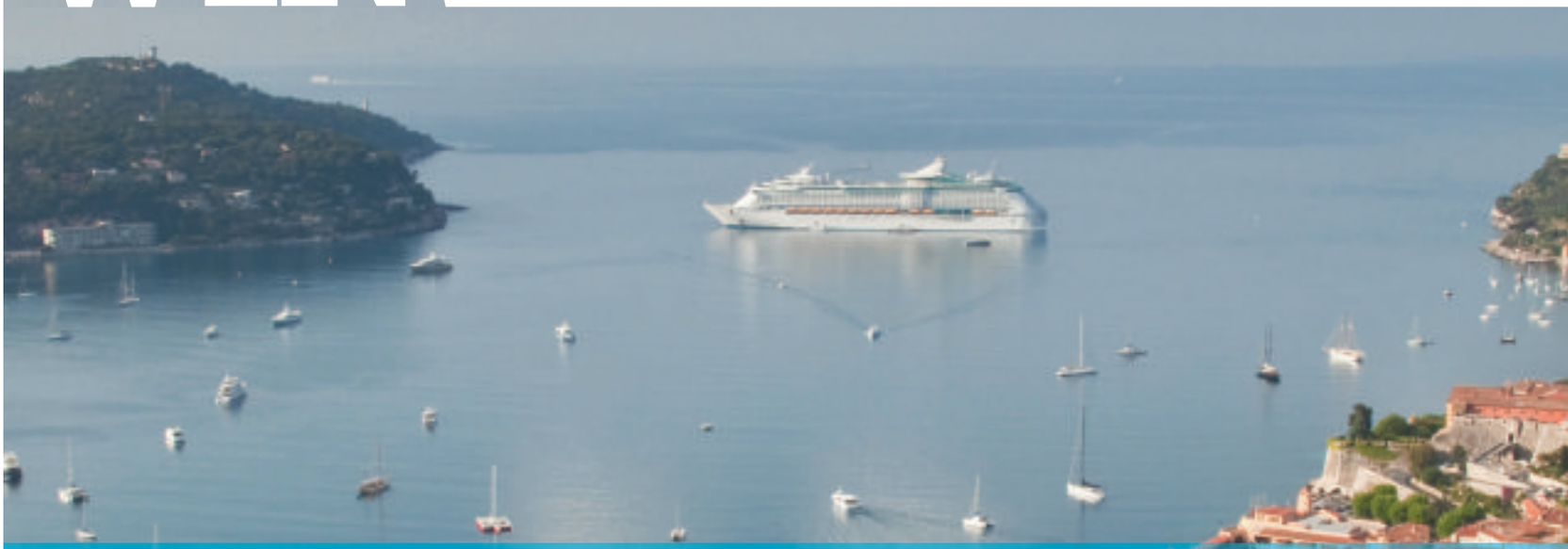

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*18+ Only. Texts to 65125 cost £1.50/msg, min of 2 msgs. To STOP text STOP to 65125 See t/cs below

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

Men Seeking

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Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531**

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499**

AARON 35, no ties, 5ft 9ins, clean shaven, attractive, Italian background, chef, down to earth, open minded, likes meals out, weekends away, socialising, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402497**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354**

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897**

AVERAGE male, 50's, large build, broadminded, OHAC, GSOH, naturist novice, smoker, seeks petite/medium build lady for relationship. Must be uninhibited, broadminded and mature. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401887**

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294**

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531**

PAUL 52, businessman, own home, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401127**

BLACK male, 50, 6ft, down to earth, easygoing, seeks female, 38-55 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401135**

ALAN from Kent, looking for Miss Right to fall in love again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401329**

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship. West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401**

THANET male, smart, young, mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401399**

CHRIS 51, looking for young female, 25-42, white, slim, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401395**

HANDCUFFS and whips. Male 49, seeks younger, slim-medium build female for fun times. Chatham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401365**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, likes most things, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401361**

GENT 49, romantic, caring, reliable, fun, seeks nice lady friend with same attributes, who has also been badly let down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401353**

TIM own car/flat, seeks N/S lady 60-70's for holidays, companionship etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401351**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401309**

SINGLE solvent 60yr old male, seeks female companion for days out and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401281**

SEAMUS 5ft 10ins, black hair, green eyes, average build, likes travel, weekends away, animal lover, varied interests, N/S, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401279**

SLIM 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, independent, sociable, easygoing, enjoys usual, seeks honest lady to share it all with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401245**

LOVING caring Ashford male, 46, likes outdoors, country pubs, cosy nights in, seeks similar female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401233**

SALVATORE 68, widow, looking for female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399613**

DENNIS 64, retired, solvent, 6ft 4ins, 16st, widower, seeks friendly, attractive female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401095**

STEVE 64, young at heart, ex-marine, likes meals out, seeking female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401063**

RICHARD blue eyes, 48, slim-medium build, likes travel, theatre, cinema, music, meals out, walks, countryside, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401049**

MARGATE gent 70's, easygoing, tactile, seeking company of lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400995**

PHIL 61, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, gardening, football, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400519**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400403**

Gay Seeking

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IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

BI male, senior, clean shaven, Maidstone area, seeks bi male, N/S for occasional meets, must be discreet, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402393**

DAVID 66, retired, fit, looking for man, 50-75 for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402249**

STEVEN 63, looking for LTR with man, 59 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402147**

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi guy for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093**

Friendship

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND ARCHT followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888** (T&C's below)

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ADVENTUROUS lady, ask me about myself. I'm here for you. **Text ARCHT 205624 to 66888**

SALLY Ann hoping to chat with mature men **Text ARCHT 206295 to 66888**

NIKITA, Russian beauty, has naughty side to her and loves to chat. **Text ARCHT 206391 to 66888**

MARILYN, feminine petite blonde, own home and just loves to text. **Text ARCHT 206431 to 66888**

ASIAN lady, very kind and respectful. Loves to chat to English men. Text me. **Text ARCHT 206248 to 66888**

LADY 22yrs is interested in texting men for chats. **Text ARCHT 206411 to 66888**

SALLY and Sophie 19yr old twins love to share everything. Call us for a chat. **Text ARCHT 206428 to 66888**

MATURE lady, very young looking 60, curvy figure, loves to chat with younger men.**Text ARCHT 206143 to 66888**

DIVORCED and happy lady, doesn't get out much so loves to chat with those who do. **Text ARCHT 205939 to 66888**

SUSIE, attractive nurse, works a nightshift so free during the day. Text me. **Text ARCHT 206201 to 66888**

BORED and lonely, home alone all day, give me something to brighten up the lonely hours. **Text ARCHT 206322 to 66888**

ASIAN female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. **Text ARCHT 206314 to 66888**

SINGLE mum, kids at school all day, would love some fun chats. **Text ARCHT 205723 to 66888**

JASMINE, exotic beauty, text me what you like and I will text back. **Text ARCHT 205748 to 66888**

BIG is best, cuddly lady seeks skinny men. Call, whatever you look like, how will I know! **Text ARCHT 205769 to 66888**

SUE, sporty and fun , why not chat with me. **Text ARCHT 205881 to 66888**

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

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LADIES TEXT FOR FUN. SEND ARCHT followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888** (T&C's below)

SINCERE, single Dad, lonely seeks lady to chat to, single mums, swap notes about life in general. **Text ARCHT 205928 to 66888**

SOLVENT business gent, would love to have a phone friend to chat with, **ACA. Text ARCHT 206104 to 66888**

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Inside this week

Food & Drink 44-45

Why butchers can reassure you about your meat choices

Restaurant Review

A chef's menu is not built in a day... but the promise is there

Leisure 43, 46-48

Alternative band Republica are back and ready to go

Heritage fun for transport fans

Business Week 51-53

Ambition

Mentoring to help women's magazine come out on top

Virgin pioneer gets behind county's young entrepreneurs

Driving 55-62

Steve Loader looks at the next-generation Skoda Octavia

Road Test

Volkswagen gives its latest CC a load more space

By **JOE BILL**

No more heroes, just an eclectic choice of music

Baz Warne of The Stranglers tells it like it is ahead of the band's visit to the county

THERE are few bands remaining on the UK music scene that retain their classic rock'n'roll edge, unafraid of saying exactly what they think.

Baz Warne from punk pioneers The Stranglers does exactly that.

Talking about his experiences of playing Spanish music festival Bennicassim, Warne, far left in the picture right, said: "I remember seeing The Strokes play – I thought it were like watching paint dry, to be honest."

The 48-year-old has been with the legendary group for 13 years and is set to head out on tour once again.

"It's the largest one we've done for a while, with 24 dates. We are all over the UK. In recent times we have done European tours straight afterwards, but not this year, although there will be festivals and jaunts to the Continent."

Since their formation in 1977, The Stranglers have produced 24 Top 40 singles over four decades as well as 18 Top 40 albums. Their sheer volume of work has meant that the consistent touring has not gone stale for either the band or the audience.

"There are17 albums to draw from and that gives us quite a headache from time to time. Obviously there are the perennials that you must do on

'I remember seeing The Strokes play – I thought it were like watching paint dry, to be honest'

tour, or we feel we must do, because although The Stranglers have a very loyal following there are still groups of Joe Public who come and see the band and they want to hear Golden Brown, Peaches and No More Heroes.

"We did a Glastonbury set in 2010 and we played a whole solid hour of hits. Even we were surprised how many hits we'd had.

"So we mix the hits in – we like to do some of the more obscure album stuff and that keeps us interested and on our toes because you aren't playing the same old stuff. It would be very easy to lapse into the nostalgia roots because we've been around for so long.

"But we like to keep people interested and this tour is selling out rapidly – there is a big resurgence in interest in the band, which is great."

The group has a hardcore support that has seen them evolve from punk into new wave with pop and 80s synth thrown. But hardcore support does come at a price when band members move on. Original vocalist Hugh Cornwell was with the group from

1974 to 1990 before being replaced by Paul Roberts through to 2006.

Warne said: "This line-up has been on the go for six years – it's back to a four-piece again and it's pulling a lot of the old faces out of the woodwork.

"When I joined [in 2000], I was part of a five-piece, so I wasn't a vocalist – I was just a guitar-player. It was great, I could stand at the back learning my craft in regards to playing in a bigger band than anything I had been used to.

"I think if I'd come in immediately as a singer-guitarist, then I would have had a lot more backlash from the fans.

"The poor guy [Roberts] who sang in The Stranglers for 16 years got so much grief it was unbelievable, whereas it was relatively easy for me.

"When he left and we went back to four-piece, I started with the vocals and it felt like the most natural thing in the world – the fans lapped that up. I am thoroughly enjoying it."

The current group is made up of three originals – Jet Black (drums), JJ Burnell (bass and lead vocals) and Dave Greenfield (keyboards) – with Baz playing guitar and lead vocals.

After the 2012 release of their album Giants, The Stranglers are enjoying playing at festivals such as the Isle of Wight as well as their own gigs.

"There is a huge online community who keep in touch with each other. Some people even do the entire tour, spending money on 24 tickets, hotels and travel. The internet has seen a new generation come to us and a lot of the older fans are bringing their kids.

"Last tour there was a kid and I was having to drag him out of the front and sit him on the stage because he was only 12. His dad was bringing him and

'The thing about The Stranglers is they are eclectic. There is something for everyone'

got carried away. There would be a look of horror on his face as he was getting crushed, so I hauled him out and gave him a drink of pop. He was there for five or six gigs. Lots of that goes on."

Baz and JJ Burnell continue to write songs together, with thoughts of progression always on their minds.

"You never stop writing. When ideas come, you tend to make a note of them – usually a little audio note on your mobile phone these days, to be honest. If you have an acoustic guitar handy you can sing into your phone and drop it on to your computer and file it away.

"Maybe when it's time to revisit it you listen and think 'Oh my god, what was I smoking when I thought about that?'. But at least you've got it. I have found in the past that it is absolute suicide to try and remember something, because you never do.

"But our writing is more of a concentrated thing. Me and JJ Burnell will get together and we sit across the kitchen table with acoustic guitars for a week singing songs to each other and if something sticks then we develop it."

The Stranglers remain an enigma to fans and critics alike. They are almost unquantifiable in terms of genre but remain up there alongside the like of Buzzcocks and the Sex Pistols as punk legends, but Baz sees it all differently.

"I still don't class The Stranglers as a punk band. They came out through that era, but it was born in the roots of pub rock in London. There was a punk, JJ Burnell, but the rest of them weren't.

"The thing about The Stranglers is they are eclectic. I know it sounds like a cop-out, but there is something for everyone. I can't say more than that."

The Stranglers come to Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on Thursday, March 21. See www.leascliffhall.co.uk for tickets, which are priced at £24.

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USE YOUR LOCAL **BUTCHER**

FOOD

Quality meat from a source you can trust

LOCAL butchers are seeing a boost in custom as shoppers are more concerned than ever to make sure that the meat they are buying is exactly what it says it is.

The scandal of beef contaminated with horsemeat has led to customers wanting to know exactly where the foods they are buying originate.

And discerning independent businesses are able to make sure they can give shoppers precisely what they want.

Kent has some of the finest meat products on the market, and locally-produced meat is most definitely free of any horse contamination.

Edwyn Martin, manager of Produced In Kent, which promotes the county's farmers and growers, said:

"Locally-sourced food and drink contributes significantly to long-term food security and – more immediately – safety."

Local butchers say they are always sure to check very carefully where the meat they are selling comes from.

And as many of them work in close co-operation with the farmers from whom they buy, they may even have first-hand knowledge of the chain of supply.

Shop-owners are also keen to point out that the outstanding quality of the meat produced in Kent means that they can get all their supplies from premises virtually on their doorstep – rather than have to rely on imports from elsewhere, some of which may not have such high standards of quality and monitoring in place.

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Dishes are not built in a day but the promise is evident

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

Excitement and expectation often surrounds news of a new chef in a popular restaurant. Which new dishes will arrive? Will the style of food be changed? However, the transfer process can also be an upheaval as new ingredients need to be sourced and new menus designed.

I went along to the trendy Samphire restaurant in Whitstable, a place I have had very good meals in the past, following news of a new boss in the kitchen.

The atmosphere in Samphire is always excellent. Old-style wooden tables, candlelight and the buzz of customers with good background music fills the air. The menu is concise and balanced between meat, fish and vegetable-based dishes, with adventurous options available.

We started with an appetiser board of olives, marinated tomatoes with fried almonds and an oil and vinegar pot for the slices of white bloomer that accompanied it.

I couldn't say with certainty that the bread was baked on the premises, while for £5 I thought it could have been warmed. For my first course I went with the leek vinaigrette salad topped with brown shrimps. Four cut leeks were topped with a delicious dressing, which was sharp but did overpower the shrimps a little.

My guest went for the fennel and salami salad with blood orange and goat's cheese. The over-generous oil dressing really detracted from the salami flavour and saturated the fennel. The blood orange was replaced with a normal orange in a dish that won't live long in the memory.

For our main course I went for the sumptuous Monkshill Farm pork belly on a bed of creamy mashed potato and savoy cabbage. It was accompanied by a generous-sized portion of crackling and a delicious apple sauce that sweetly complemented the pork. This was more like it! The pork was cooked to perfection and melted in the mouth – it was superb.

My guest went for the leek gratin with poached egg and grain mustard. A quick taste confirmed that the poached egg was very nice and the mustard flavours an extra kick. It wasn't a bad dish, but my guest wished she had gone for the 'less plain' braised ox cheek on the menu.

The portion sizes were very good, as has always been the way at Samphire, and so on this occasion we decided against dessert and had another drink to soak up the atmosphere.

The service is still very good and the dishes are still at the top end of what we had come to expect from a restaurant with a good reputation, but we found that attention to detail in making sure dishes had just the right balance was a little off.

The bill came to £62.80.

With a new chef and a new menu, things were always going to take time to bed in and be exactly as desired by the new maestro in the kitchen. I am looking forward to giving Samphire another try in the near future.

Joe Bill

■ **Samphire, 4 High Street, Whitstable CT5 1BQ (telephone 01227 770075; website www.letseat.at/SamphireWhitstable)**

Makeover and a new team for Zetland Arms

BEACHSIDE pub the Zetland Arms in Kingsdown, near Deal, has reopened after a £90,000 refurbishment.

The Shepherd Neame venue closed in early December after the retirement of Tim Cobbett, who had been licensee for 35 years.

A new husband-and-wife team, Kerensa and Tom Miller, have now reopened the doors.

Kerensa said: "Tom and I are looking forward to offering a warm welcome. We are planning music events, themed nights and quizzes to brighten up winter nights, but before we confirm details we want to ask locals what they enjoy."

The refurbishment includes the removal of a partition wall to open up the restaurant area.

Folk at farmers' fair keen for spring lift

ORGANISERS at Capel-le-Ferne farmers' market are looking forward to the end of the bad weather and kick-starting 2013.

The fair is held every Tuesday from 10am to midday at the village hall and is up for the Taste of Kent Best Farmers' Market award for 2013.

A spokesman said: "Although we have had more snow, as predicted, we have remained open, thanks to the support of our loyal stallholders and customers."

All stall-holders provide Kent products unless stated otherwise. Just some of the products for sale include fish, meat, eggs, preserves, pickles, sauces, cheeses and confectionary.

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Morris dancers ready to gather for the Ale

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

AS the springtime festivals approach, the Morris dancers of Kent will be shaking the dust from their bells and polishing their tankards in preparation for another busy season.

The traditional British pastime, said to date back to the 15th century, is one that can often go unnoticed, but many a Kent festival would be a far less entertaining place without the Morris contingent.

Bromley's own dancing side, the Ravensbourne Morris Men, have recently announced that after a break of six years they will host an Ale gathering for sword- and clog-dancers from across the South East.

This will see a dozen or more sides come together to celebrate the folk traditions as well as sample some local brews.

These groups, of which there are more than 30 in Kent, can be quite a sight with their uniforms, painted faces and sticks, but Kent festivals have seen the tradition stand the test of time.

Malcolm Triggs, squire (leader) of the East Kent Morris Men, has been a keen Morris dancer for 18 years.

He said: "In many ways there has been a revival. If you go back through history there were a few sides in a few villages, but there are now hundreds across the UK.

"There are two styles: Cotswold, which is the traditional bells and handkerchiefs, and Border, which is far more aggressive and stompy – the punk rock of Morris dancing.

"Border tends to be well supported because it is a bit more young and trendy, in a sense. When they were younger, my boys would dance Border but not be seen dead with a hankie. Morris dancing is still alive and thriving, but Cotswold could do with a boost in members."

East Kent Morris Men have been going for 60 years and expanded their traditional season of May to September to include dances on Boxing Day and St George's Day.

"We have Ales where we all get together and dance, but there isn't anything competitive. You will get competitions for solo dancers at some festivals, but that is a folk thing. Morris sides don't compete – they just get drunk and have fun."

It is such traditions that keep tourists coming back to England and some would argue that there should be funding to keep Morris groups going – but Triggs isn't one of them.

He said: "Morris dancing has survived for hundreds of years and will continue to survive. It's fun – we enjoy it. It doesn't need a lot of sponsorship and it doesn't cost anything to go and dance. Raising awareness will do more for Morris dancing than a grant."

Key events in Kent include the Sweeps Festival in Rochester, Faversham Hop Festival and Tenterden Folk Festival.

The Ravensbourne Ale will be on the village green at Pratts Bottom on Saturday, March 23, from 12.30pm-4pm and showcase English folk dance.

You can write to Malcolm@go4marketing.net for details or if you would like to join the East Kent Morris Men.

CHOICE: There are two styles of Morris dancing... Cotswold and Border

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Theatre Royal Margate
Wednesday, February 27, 7.30pm
Box office: 01843 292795
Website: www.theatreroyalmargate.com
Silly Songs Of Shakespeare: An evening of music and comedy about the world's most famous bard. A must for Shakespeare buffs as his most famous plays get a very new twist. Tickets £12.

Tom Thumb Theatre, Cliftonville
Friday, March 8, 7.30pm
Box office: 01843 221791
Website: www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk
The Whispering Road: Drawing on Scandinavian myths and stories, the show blends mystical storytelling and musicianship to tell tales of Nordic folk culture. Tickets £6.

King's School Rochester
Thu to Sat, March 14-16, 7.30pm
Box office: 01634 888555
Email: tickets@kings-rochester.co.uk
Sweeney Todd: Revenge, romance and music – Stephen Sondheim's tale of the demon barber of Fleet Street performed by King's students. Tickets £15 for adults and £12 for children.

Tower Theatre, Folkestone
Thursday, March 7, 8.30pm
Box office: 01303 277175
Email: dwoodland05@aol.com
Tina May Live: As part of Tower's Best Of British Jazz series, award-winning vocalist, tutor and broadcaster Tina May will play live with her Allstar Trio backing band. Tickets £10.

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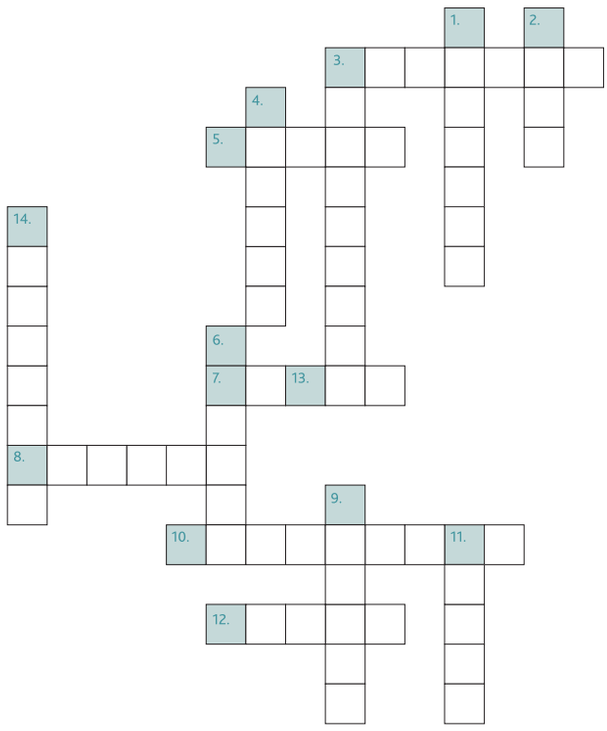

Across

3. Afternoon show in the theatre
5. Eddie the _____, a famous skier
7. The love of Juliet's life according to Shakespeare
8. Capital of England
10. The day before today
12. Country that resembles a boot

Down

1. Duke of Cambridge
2. A Welsh vegetable
3. Soft beverage to accompany hamburgers
4. An animal called Peter
6. A citrus fruit and a colour
9. We all live in a _____ submarine
11. The first month of the year with 30 days
14. Protects you from getting wet in the rain

Take the letters on the numbers from the crossword to reveal the secret message.

1.	12.	8.	2.		9.	6.	14.
3.	11.	4.	7.	10.		13.	5.

?

Answers: 1) William, 2) Leek, 3) Matinee, 4) Rabbit, 5) Eagle, 6) Orange, 7) Romeo, 8) London, 9) Yellow, 10) Yesterday, 11) April, 12) Italy, 14) Umbrella

I'm back and ready to go

Saffron from indie band Republica talks to **Joe Bill** about their return and the 90s music revival

DROP-DEAD GORGEOUS: Saffron, aka Samantha Sprackling, of techno-pop punk-rockers Republica

THE 90s Britpop era was so defined because of the country's wealth of new musical talent pushing through to gain mainstream success.

It didn't only apply to the likes of Blur and Oasis... they were just the crest of a wave of bands highlighting British music to the world.

Key players in that movement were Republica. Fronted by charismatic female singer Saffron, aka Samantha Sprackling, the techno-pop punk-rockers contributed with more than three million album sales and a couple of truly iconic songs.

The group are now back and taking on a tour of the UK for the first time since their reformation in 2008, not to mention bringing out a new EP.

Saffron said: "It was a hell of a time to be in music. It was a great part of British history being in the UK and being in a band at that time. There was a great album or great single coming out every week.

"It was a happy time and we were so lucky because the music scene now is so fractured. It was really nice to be a part of something like that."

Saffron and Republica famously fronted a Versace catwalk show in New York that featured the band playing their Top 10 hit Drop Dead Gorgeous on the runway while models like Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell strutted their stuff.

But it will be back to the old-style venues for the coming tour, including a stop-off in Kent.

"We want to go to small club venues and places that we haven't been before, like the Tunbridge Wells Forum. A few weeks ago I went up there to see a band and it was such a great little venue. I also live in Sussex, so it's not too far – we're quite looking forward to playing there.

"The last couple of years we've been touring abroad – places like Transylvania, Bucharest, Dubai, Bahrain and a few of the former Eastern Bloc countries – places we've never been before.

"When our music was out in the late 90s, a lot of those countries were still under the Nicolae Ceaucescu [communist leader in Romania] way and it was hard for people to listen to new music, so we have gone out there now and we're doing quite well. They're just catching up with what happened in the 90s."

Republica are one of a number of indie bands to have reformed in recent years. Blur are back, the Stone Roses have returned and now Republica are looking to remind British rock fans of the glories of a bygone era.

"The way the industry is, it is so difficult for young bands to get heard or to be seen.

"And, you know, with Pulp back together, Space back together, it's quite exciting. I heard Cast were back together, too, so hopefully everyone can push on again.

"I have no idea if the Britpop thing will take off again, but, live-show wise, I think it will because kids these days are quite starved of young bands and new music.

"Obviously there is some stuff out there, but I think it will be really nice for them to see the Britpop bands come out and play again."

Saffron believes the same can be said of Top Of The Pops, which played a key role during the cool Britannia 90s: "I really think it should come back. We were talking about this the other day.

"There is no TV show or central point for people to listen to any bands. The pop stuff is there for everyone, but TOTP is a national treasure, really. It provided a platform for new bands as well as pop-pickers. I would love to see it come back – definitely."

Despite their Drop Dead Gorgeous track featuring in Wes Craven's hit horror-film Scream, Republica are probably best known for their debut hit Ready To Go.

While the group prepare to play in front of thousands of fans at this summer's Isle of Wight Festival, they are also looking to re-create the form that has kept them as one of the darlings of Britpop – their new tracks are due out this year.

"Republica's sound is Republica's sound. We don't change it to suit anyone else – we've always just written our own music and produced it ourselves as well.

"We like to think it's the same quality that people are used to seeing. You get to know your band so well over the years, so we went down to Cornwall and set up a studio in a mate's house and did a load of writing. It was exactly the same as it used to be."

■ **Republica play the Tunbridge Wells Forum on Saturday, March 16. Tickets cost £12.50; see www.twforum.co.uk to book.**

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Transport buffs will taste paradise at show

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

ORGANISERS of the Heritage Transport Show have announced this year's guest speakers.

The Kent County Agricultural Society will partner the 2013 South East Bus Festival to put on the popular event, which sees Stagecoach chief Paul Southgate give a talk on his 40 years in the business.

Lucy Hegarty, organiser and Kent County Show manager, said: "The talks have proved to be a very popular attraction for visitors, and the quality of the speakers and topics gets better each year."

Fans of the heritage and restoration of old vehicles are in for a treat as the second guest speaker is Richard Bourne, of the Friends of Chatham Traction. The organisation aims to restore the last remaining double-decker bus of the former Chatham & District service that ran through the Medway Towns from 1930-55.

The talk will encompass the group's aims and progress so far.

South East Bus Festival organiser Richard Lewis said: "The talks at previous shows were very popular and allowed people a unique opportunity to hear interesting reminiscences from professionals."

The show will also have the new feature of an auction. The publisher of Classic Car Buyer magazine, Kelsey Publishing, will be running the event, to be overseen by an experienced auctioneer.

Kelsey's Steve Wright said: "We have some very interesting items already and I am confident the auction will gather a large audience."

The auction will feature stationary engines, tractors and a rare aircraft tug once owned by Harrods. Other items include a vintage power-generator, tractors from the 1960s and 70s and a three-wheel motorised tipping trailer.

The event will be held at Kent Showground in Detling on Saturday, April 6.

Advance tickets (before Saturday, March 23) at £5 are available at www.kentshowground.co.uk or by phoning 01622 630975. Gate prices are £8, with under-12s free. Gates open from 10am-4pm.

Contact Kelsey Publishing at www.heritagetransportauction.com or phone 01959 541444 if you want to buy or sell a vehicle.

HERITAGE: A range of vehicles will be on display at the event, while there will also be the new draw of an auction

Families can enjoy Grand Tour for less this summer

DICKENS World in Chatham celebrates its seventh anniversary with a new attraction, The Grand Tour.

Bosses at the venue have created an informative and funny guided tour through the world of Dickens.

The site has had a substantial internal change to create Victorian England indoors. The entry price for the new season has also been changed – reduced to £5.50 to make The Grand Tour experience more affordable to families during the current economic climate.

A spokesman for Dickens World said: "We are opening the attraction to families who may not otherwise be able to afford a day out.

"We are not offering less – we are offering more and believe we will greatly enhance footfall by doubling the experience with our guided tours of Dickensian or Victorian England, providing a new, fresh and enjoyable day out for visitors."

Dickens World will reopen to the public on Saturday, March 23. Phone 0844 858 6656 or visit www.dickensworld.co.uk for details.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells
Monday to Saturday, March 11-16
Box office: 01892 530613
Website: www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk
Save The Last Dance: From the writers of stage hit Dreamboats And Petticoats, this new musical brings back the magic of the early Sixties with rock'n'roll classics. Tickets £19.50-£29.50.

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, February 28, 7.30pm
Box office: 01322 220000
Website: www.orchardtheatre.co.uk
Ballet Boyz: Following UK and international appearances on stage and screen, this popular company features 10 exceptional young dancers and high-energy dance. Tickets £10.50- £24.50.

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Saturday, April 13, 7pm
Box office: 01303 228600
Website: www.leascliffhall.co.uk
Massive Waves Of Britfunk: The Old Skool Jazz Funk, Soul And Dance Society presents a night of music and moves featuring bands such as jazz-funk Legends Beggar and Co. Tickets £30.

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Monday to Saturday, March 11-16
Box office: 01227 787787
Website: www.marlowetheatre.com
The Full Monty: Based on the 1997 BAFTA-winning film about six out-of-work Sheffield steelworkers becoming strippers. The show has been a West End hit. Tickets £16.50-£37.

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Over the last months we have brought it up to date and increased the offering somewhat (added fresh lobster, skate, oysters and other hard to find goodies).

We now make our own pork pies and gala pies from the same free range pork we make our (Doug's) award winning sausages from, homemade steak and free range chicken pies are already being eaten along with big juicy sausage rolls and the best scotch eggs (all eggs from our own very free range chickens) you have ever eaten!

We will soon make our own artisan bread, but that's just a little way off yet, I think. We have been given the OK to sell good wine, local ales and cider.

Doug Marchant and his son (after nearly 40 years) are still making the sausages and Rob our real top end (best end?) master butcher is running the shop where you will actually see the 30 – 35 day dry aged, grass fed Scottish or local beef, hanging before you.

If the beef is ready we will be open by the 14th of February, so if you want the best Sunday roast you have ever purchased or a bottle of champagne for that Valentine's dinner now's your chance!

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Small traders at the heart of campaign

A DRAMATIC surge in customers to Kent's independent butchers has sparked fresh life into a campaign for smaller retailers.

The horsemeat scandal has prompted the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in Kent to encourage people to Keep Trade Local by supporting local meat stores.

The FSB says those of its members who run butchers have reported an increase in trade as customers are wary of contaminated goods.

Regulations such as Animal Passports ensure butchers know where the meat they are buying comes from and how the animal has been raised. Plus, the Food Standards Agency and environmental health officials can sample products in any butchers on demand.

FSB Kent is relaunching its Keep Trade Local campaign to highlight the role that local retailers play – but the Meat Trades Journal reported that 15,000 butchers had stopped trading since the mid-1980s.

Laurie Wakeham, of Wakeham Butchers in Bridge near Canterbury, said: "Food scandals can, in the short term, be good for independent butchers because the meat we sell is high quality and assured.

"Processed food is convenient and cheap and people have become blinkered to what is in the food they are buying. Small independent butchers are heavily regulated, but we know where every piece of meat we sell has come from because we can trace it back to the local farmer."

Airport takes on 42

A TOTAL of 42 staff have been recruited at Manston airport as KLM prepares to launch twice-daily return flights to Schiphol, Amsterdam.

The posts are in customer service, security, baggage-handling, refuelling and fire-fighting. The figure is 14 more than originally predicted when the Dutch carrier put forward its plans.

Charles Buchanan, chief executive, said: "The new recruits follow the same pattern as our existing staff, with 55 per cent being Thanet residents and a further 38 per cent from elsewhere in East Kent.

"Importantly, almost a fifth of the new recruits were previously unemployed and this has to be good news for the long-term future of the area."

If you have a business story, **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. Telephone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**
Follow us on Twitter @KOSbusiness

New women's magazine wins help from inspirational mentor

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A NEW magazine aimed at the female business community is being launched next month.

Kent Women In Business is the brainchild of entrepreneur Hilary Steel, 40, from Maidstone.

She entered the project into a competition run by best-selling writer Bev James, whose inspirational book Do it! Or Ditch It! topped the Sunday Times best-sellers list.

Steel is now undergoing six months' free mentoring at the hands of James.

"When I looked at the market, there was nothing like the magazine I am putting together," said Steel. "Women in the commercial sector have to do a lot of juggling with things such as childcare.

"Then there is the fact that many work from home, which obviously limits aspects such as networking opportunities.

"Since I put forward the idea for the magazine, I have had loads of people saying they want to write for it, so it will be a great way to exchange ideas and experiences.

Steel entered the idea into the competition organised by James, which is named after her book.

Entrepreneur, writer, life coach and all-round business guru James said she set up the competition because she "promotes giving back where possible".

SUCCESS: Hilary Steel has won six months' mentoring with Bev James

She said: "It was the perfect way of finding someone special to work with, with a view to helping accelerate their success."

Steel said: "I think it's great that Bev's giving back to the business community – it's such a fantastic prize. When I found out I had won I was jumping around the office and punching the air. To win six months of mentoring with Bev is like winning the lottery as it will really accelerate the business.

"Bev is such an inspirational woman and I will definitely benefit from her guidance. I'm hoping her mentoring sessions will provide my business plans with structure and give me someone to answer to."

Both were enthusiastic about their first get-together.

James said: "When I launched the competition I was looking for more than a business person. I wanted to know 'Has that person got fire in their belly?'.

"Hilary is very driven, focused, but also very personable and I think that is vital if you're to get on.

"I was really impressed with Hilary's story. She ignored her critics who told her it wouldn't work and she is due to launch her magazine next month. What impressed me most about Hilary was her intent on making 2013 her best year yet.

"She has achieved so much already with practically no budget but lots of hard work and dedication. Her passion really shone through for me and I'm looking forward to working with her over the next six months."

James said although the magazine's current project was aimed at women she does not believe that gender in business is important.

"I haven't experienced any anti-women feeling, either," she said. "I've never felt it and I certainly don't go looking for it."

Kent Women In Business magazine will launch at the Kent Women in Business Awards on Thursday, March 28.

A wealth of experience

BEV James – often referred to as the Millionaire's Mentor – is an entrepreneur and business coach with more than 20 years' experience in sectors including coaching, training, recruitment and health and fitness.

As a business coach, she enjoys troubleshooting and business-turnaround projects and is one of the most sought-after public speakers in the UK commercial sector.

James was appointed managing director and head of coaching for The Coaching Academy, the world's largest training school for coaches.

She also founded and runs training schemes and the Entrepreneurs' Business Academy, a joint venture with James Caan from Dragons' Den that was launched in March 2010. She was most recently appointed director of mentoring for Start-up Loans, the Government initiative developed by David Cameron's business advisor Lord Young.

Expansion plans to boost opportunity for small firms

KENT Science Park has announced growth plans for the coming months to bring in more science and technology-based businesses.

The Sittingbourne site holds 1,350 workers and in 2012 an additional 15,000 sq ft of analytical laboratories was developed – with another 40,000 sq ft planned in 2013.

Stronger links between learning establishments and business are also on the agenda.

The park has also seen a growth in businesses from start-ups to SMEs, says its director James Speck: "We have firms on site that six or seven years ago were start-ups and would now be classed as SMEs. GoResponse, for example, has more than 100 employees on site and Ecologia has grown to more than 50.

"This highlights why we now have the highest-ever amount of employees on the park and shows why enquiries about space are at their highest for eight years.

"We want to set Kent Science Park apart from other landlords and work as a partner to our tenants. It's encouraging to see the Government investing in science again and we're mirroring this by investing in our tenants. In some cases we bear the cost of developing labs to help reduce the outlay tenants need to spend at the early stages of their development."

Links to the international business community are also a priority. The senior management team has recently been involved with the CHAIN2 Project, which links business centres in Kent to those in Brittany and Normandy, encouraging cross-Channel collaboration.

The park was approached to provide a keynote speaker at the Dutch Science Park Symposium in November 2012 and took part in Bio-Europe in Amsterdam earlier in the year.

Speck added: "Last year saw a huge amount of foreign direct investment on the park. This will help the businesses to develop and grow."

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College dishes up a tasty business plan cooked up by two students

IDEAS: Isabelle and Poppy

AFTER launching a driving school and an events company, MidKent College continues to drive the idea of running real businesses with a takeaway service called Tasty.

It was researched and designed and will be run by students.

Diners at both the Maidstone and Medway campuses will soon be able to order high-quality food on the go, all prepared by catering students working under the supervision of experienced chefs.

The branding and research behind the new service was the work of Maidstone campus business students Poppy Wilson, 19, from Hollingbourne, and Isabelle Fort, 19, from Leeds.

The girls' ideas were implemented after they impressed a panel of judges with a presentation outlining their ideas for the brand. Isabelle said: "It's a huge honour."

Uni opens its doors for prospective students

THE University of Greenwich will throw open the doors of its campus at Chatham Martime on Saturday, February 23, for an open day.

The specialist schools of engineering, health and social care and science will all be open for prospective students to visit, with tours of the site available with staff and students.

For more information on the open day, phone 0208 331 9900 or visit www.gre.ac.uk/study/opendays.

UCA lecturer scoops top design competition

A SENIOR lecturer in architecture from the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) in Canterbury has won a prestigious international design competition.

Gabor Stark impressed the judges in a contest set by the Siberian Centre For The Promotion Of Architecture in Novosibirsk to create a monument dedicated to the Russian architect, painter and typographer El Lissitzky. Gabor said: "I feel honoured and delighted the jury appreciated my entry."

Security Services at MidKent College
Invitation for expressions of interest

Maidstone Borough Council - working on behalf of MidKent College - is seeking expressions of interest from potential operators to provide security services at the Medway Campus.

MidKent College believes the continued operation of the service is best suited for an organisation with the experience and resources to develop those already provided.

The BIP Solutions e-Source system will be used to facilitate the secure interchange of documents.

For more information and to obtain the pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) visit **www.delta-esourcing.com** and follow these instructions:

1. **Go to the homepage**
2. **Find 'Supplier Functions'**
3. **Double-click 'Response Manager'**
4. **Enter your contact details**
5. **Enter your organisation details**
6. **Enter access code 94QE57523F in the appropriate box**
7. **Enter the verification code (as displayed)**
8. **Read the terms and conditions, and then tick the box**
9. **Click 'Signup'**
10. **Go to Step Three - Confirmation**
11. **Open the tender box '1696 MidKent College Security' and upload the documents to your computer**

All communications should be made via this system.

Supplier registration is free of charge.
If you experience problems, please contact the Delta helpdesk via **helpdesk@delta-esourcing.com** or call **0845 270 7050** for further assistance.

MidKent College

The closing date for receipt of the PQQ document is 3pm on Friday, 8 March 2013.

FLYING THE FLAG: The Medway project has won glowing accolades from the European Commission

Euro praise rains down on Medway job scheme

A BACK-TO-WORK project in Medway has been named one of the best in Europe.

The success of Medway Council's SUCCES – Sustainable Uplifting Client Centred Employment Support – has ensured that it could become an inspiration for others around the UK.

SUCCES is part-funded by a special European programme to provide training and specialist support services to people over the age of 16 either looking for work or with a low skills set and little experience.

This can be anything from help with writing CVs and interview techniques to self-esteem courses and networking events with local employers.

Not only has it proved a hit in Medway but it is also being rolled out in Great Yarmouth and Waveney in the UK, Grand-Synthe in France and Kortrijk in Belgium.

Its influence is being felt far and wide after being selected as one of 27 short-listed for a a prestigious Regiostars award, run by the European Commission.

And while it didn't win, the employment-support scheme was praised for its innovative delivery and as a great example of best practice. It was also named as one of the best projects in Europe and in its category the best in England.

In Medway, the project is led by the council and involves the work of a range of community groups and services, including the Employ Medway Advice Centre, All Saints Community Project, Strood Community Project, Medway Citizens Advice Bureau, North Kent Training Service and Medway Community Learning.

It was launched just under three years ago and has so far allowed more than 500 people to benefit from work places and volunteering work opportunities.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth, Jane Chitty, said: "It's great to see the work of the SUCCES project and the team behind it being recognised for the valuable work they are doing to help people in Medway.

"We are extremely proud of our European projects here in Medway and over the years have managed to lever in millions of pounds of investment that goes to the heart of our communities and really makes a difference, in this case, through getting people into work."

The scheme has funded more than 150 sessions offering interview and life skills advice, along with more than 250 informal taster sessions to encourage people into learning.

One of those to take advantage is 37-year-old Ronnie Else from Chatham. He said: "Following a long period of unemployment, I was referred to Employ Medway, the employment-support centre in Chatham.

"It secured me a work trial with Sainsbury's, Chatham, which gave me the chance to demonstrate what I could do and that I could be a good part of any team. The trial lasted for a month, but I was offered a part-time contract, which has since increased to full-time."

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

Charlotte is star of apprentice promo

The spectacular re-emergence of apprenticeships has turned one former apprentice into a 'film star' to promote the training schemes.

Charlotte Tingley, from Sheppey, was an electronic and electrical engineering apprentice at BAE Systems, and is now a production engineer there.

And when the National Apprentice Service needed someone to appear in its promotional film, she passed the audition and will now be the face of a campaign aiming to encourage others to get involved on the scheme.

She said: "My apprenticeship has given me an amazing opportunity to achieve a well-respected qualification, as well as gain valuable experience in an innovative industry.

"Within advanced manufacturing and engineering there are so many different types of jobs, for all sorts of people.

"I hope the film will highlight to other young people just how rewarding and accessible the proven benefits of an apprenticeship are, and encourage them to investigate the options available."

Last year, Charlotte Tingley also won the Women's Engineering Society Prize at the Young Woman Engineer of the Year Awards. To see the film, visit www.apprentice.tv.

Virgin pioneer ambassador signs up to help young entrepreneurs

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

SIR Richard Branson has tasked a Canterbury entrepreneur who started two businesses while studying at the University of Kent to inspire a new generation of commercial go-getters.

Liam Gooding, 25, is the voice of Virgin Media Pioneers for the South East and his role is to inspire more young people to start their own businesses. He is now concentrating on start-ups – and hoping to help unearth the next Branson, the founder of the Virgin empire and one of the country's most renowned entrepeneurs.

"What I find especially inspiring about Sir Richard is how he started his business from nothing, then went from music to all kinds of other activities," said Gooding, who expects to work in close tandem with the Virgin boss.

The drive comes at a time when almost one in four young people are unemployed.

Virgin Media Pioneers is a free online community connecting young entrepreneurial talent to a network of peer-to-peer support, with video blogs, TV series and professional mentoring and advice.

Sir Richard has taken on the role of pioneer-at-large. He said: "There is a huge amount we can do to unlock entrepreneurial potential, and Virgin Media Pioneers is empowering young entrepreneurs to fulfil their dreams of owning and managing businesses.

"Starting up your own business is a big challenge and many of the obstacles are daunting and, at times, can seem insurmountable. But with the right support and expert advice, young entrepreneurs can find their way and Virgin Media Pioneers will be with them every step of the way."

Gooding will be one of just 12 entrepreneurs across the UK acting as regional pioneer ambassadors, supporting events across Kent and acting as an ambassador to help inspire and transform the prospects of young people.

He founded Fruitbowl Media, a digital-marketing team, while at university. After spotting a lack of communal office space in Canterbury, he set up the Fruitworks, Kent's first dedicated co-working space for start-ups.

ENCOURAGING START: Liam Gooding says he will be working closely with Sir Richard Branson

He decided to leave university without completing his degree, such was his enthusiasm for the commercial sector.

With the two orginal companies now sold off, Gooding says he is able to focus on software and marketing virally. This venture will run alongside his work with Sir Richard's project.

He said: "Virgin Media Pioneers has made a real difference. Young people are full of great ideas but don't always have the know-how or contacts to make them happen. The Pioneers community can help change that.

"They can meet like-minded people, gain experience and skills and open doors to achieve their dream of running their own business, which is a great way for us to invest in our area."

'Slumps clear the deadwood'

THE move to promote entrepreneurial skills by Sir Richard Branson comes as the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) predicts that youth unemployment could crash through the million mark this year.

This has prompted the Government's skills experts to offer an insight into which jobs are likely to offer the best chance of a long-term career.

Alex Curling, assistant director of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES), said: "Whatever the economic climate, there will always be jobs which will definitely be required.

"Of course these will change over time and it is essential to be aware of current and future trends. For example, changes in the way we work and in the way companies buy in skills have led to an increase in the number of professional freelance managers and consultants.

"Scientists and engineers will continue to be in demand and it is a fairly safe bet that we shall continue to need plenty of software developers. Getting skilled up for one of these is potentially a good move."

He also highlighted the reverse: "Jobs which we shall probably see declining in the UK range from typists to postal workers, those working on production lines and in mines and quarries to some retail workers.

"Recessions can act a bit like bush fires – clearing away the deadwood of old, stagnant businesses to make way for the young and ambitious ones to flourish."

Olympics security firm to stay at detention centre

CONTROVERSIAL security company G4S will continue to provide services at Medway Secure Training Centre for almost two more years.

The agreement formalised with the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales runs for 23 months beginning in April 2013.

The company, which was heavily criticised for its performance at last year's Olympics, said the agreement was expected to deliver savings to the YJB of £4.6 million from current costs without any deviation from the current service provision.

The Medway centre, in Chatham, opened in April 1998 and was originally designed to accommodate 40 boys, aged 12-17, sentenced to periods of detention.

It grew in 2002 to accommodate 76 young people, including boys and girls on remand. G4S has been operating the centre since its opening. An Ofsted report rated the centre as "good".

Paul Cook, managing director of G4S Children's Services, said: "We have been delighted to reach this agreement with the YJB to continue providing services to young people at Medway STC, while the Youth Justice Board and the Ministry of Justice determine the new strategy for the Youth Secure Estate.

"The positive news comes as Ofsted has recognised the good work of our team. Inspectors recognised the excellent arrangements we have in place to help young people develop skills to prepare for adult life and reduce their risk of reoffending.

"Medway delivers excellent services with outstanding outcomes for young people, with particular focus on improving education attainment and helping young people into further education, training or employment."

G4S has admitted the fall-out from its Olympics contract will cost £38 million more than first thought, bringing the total loss to £88m.

The company had said it expected to lose £50m after it failed to provide enough security staff, forcing organisers to draft in the army. But after months of negotiations with organiser Locog, G4S agreed to waive more of its management fee.

The company said it now wanted to continue winning big Government contracts, which make up about half of its UK sales of £700m a year.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Reeves up for awards at diamond ceremony

BUSINESS advisory company Reeves, based in Canterbury and Chatham, is one of three finalists for the Employer Of The Year category at the Gatwick Diamond Business Awards.

The awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, March 21, at the Copthorne Effingham Park Hotel in West Sussex.

A total of 13 awards will be presented before 600 business leaders.

Millions earmarked for airport project

THE development of Rochester airport has been made a priority in a bid to boost the north Kent economy.

Medway Council is proposing to invest millions of pounds into a regeneration fund aimed at creating thousands of new jobs. Its draft budget proposes to use half its unallocated reserves, about £5 million, to a South Medway Development Fund, which will fund the scheme.

Miss tax deadline and you will have to pay

WITH an estimated 750,000 small-business-owners across the UK missing the January 31 tax deadline, an accountant is warning of the financial penalties that can be incurred.

Nick Ditton, of TaxAssist Accountants in Ashford, said: "Customs will now have issued them with a £100 penalty, claiming approximately £73 million of small-business-owners' income, but this is just the tip of the iceberg."

Town traders are not happy with chamber

A LABOUR Party survey of businesses in Deal has shown support for the Federation of Small Businesses but dissatisfaction with the Deal and Walmer Chamber of Trade, the local business representative body.

The survey was based on 60 questionnaires distributed along the high street and neighbouring roads and streets.

Thirty-nine questionnaires were returned.

Dover reaps £250m tourism dividend

TOURISM is worth almost £250 million to the economy in Dover and supports more than 4,500 jobs, according to research into the district's visitor economy.

The bi-yearly study by Tourism South East also shows that there were 3,880,000 visitors to the Dover district over the course of 2011.

Research showed that the total economic impact of tourism was up 16 per cent on 2009.

FSB backs plans for new investment bank

PROPOSALS by Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls for a new bank to lend to small businesses seeking funds for growth have been applauded by the Federation of Small Businesses.

Balls said Labour policy was to "help small businesses by establishing a British investment bank to boost lending".

The FSB said there would not be stability in the banking sector without more competition.

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26 September 2013 Quote CV9-KOS

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Escorted Fly-Cruise

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INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return flights to Munich from a choice of UK airports • 1 night hotel B&B in Germany • 7-night full-board cruise on the MS Serenity • Transfers abroad

9 DAYS FULL BOARD FROM £1199pp

5 May & 22 Sept 2013 Quote GD5/9-KOS

4 Star Rhine Cruise to Switzerland

Escorted Rail-Cruise

Join us for one of the most picturesque, romantic Rhine cruises available. Embarking in Cologne we cruise through spellbinding gorges of Germany, scenic Alsace and the majestic mountain slopes of Switzerland. Along the way we pass magical castles, visit quaint old towns and villages and see stunning river and landscapes - a real feast for the senses.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return rail travel from London St Pancras • 7 night cruise on the MS Serenity – upgrades available • Full board tea/coffee with all meals: breakfast; à la carte; lunch & dinner – 4 courses; welcome & farewell dinner – 5 courses; afternoon tea/coffee & pastries; midnight snacks • Live music, activities & themed evenings • Transfers abroad

8 DAYS FULL BOARD FROM £1199pp

23 October 2013 Quote RC10-KOS

Highland Steam Rail Loch Cruise & Royalty

Escorted Holiday by Rail

June: Glamis Castle • **Sept:** Braemar Highland Games

Join us for a super holiday to Scotland which takes in the best of the Highlands. Based in Pitlochry, we include a Loch Katrine Cruise, visits to the Trossachs, Aviemore, Queens View and the Strathspey Steam Railway. In June we visit to Glamis Castle and in September the Braemar Highland Games.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London Kings Cross to Pitlochry (other joining points possible including the hotel - deduct £100pp) • 5 nights half-board at the Fishers Hotel, Pitlochry • All coach travel & touring in Scotland • Loch Katrine Cruise • Ride on the Strathspey Railway • Glamis Castle *or* Braemar Games entry

6 DAYS HALF BOARD FROM £599pp

7 June (£599) & 5 Sept(£649) 2013 Quote FP6/9-KOS

Highlands, Orkney & Shetland Twilight

Escorted Rail-to-Mini-Cruise

Scotland's Highlands and Islands are magical, particularly in mid-summer when you can witness Shetland's 'simmer dim' or twilight at midnight. With visits to Loch Ness, the Castle of Mey, John O'Groats, Orkney and a two night mini-cruise to Shetland, this is a unique, not to be missed holiday.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London Kings Cross (other joining points possible) • 1 night half-board at Carrbridge Hotel in the Highlands • 2 nights half-board at The Royal Hotel, Thurso • Ferry to Orkney & dinner in a local restaurant • 2 night cruise to Shetland – 1 night B&B, 1 night half-board • Guided tours of Orkney & Shetland • Transfers & touring

6 DAYS HALF BOARD £899pp

1 June 2013 Quote OS6-KOS

Three Countries Christmas Party River Cruise

Escorted Rail-Cruise

Join us for a relaxing river cruise taking-in Holland, Belgium & Germany and Christmas markets in Valkenburg & Aachen. Back by popular demand, the mps Princess - exclusively chartered again by us - will host you in comfort and style with (almost) everything on board included: beer, wine by the glass, Dutch spirits & soft drinks served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar - PLUS - breakfast, lunch, afternoon cakes, dinner, late snacks - PLUS - entertainment.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from St Pancras or Ebbsfleet • 4-night semi-all-inclusive cruise on the mps Princess • Outside, twin bed cabin with private facilities • Entertainment • Transfers abroad

5 DAYS SEMI-ALL-INCLUSIVE FROM £479pp

26 November 2013 Quote XA11-KOS

Croatia's Istrian Coast & Adriatic Islands

Escorted Holiday by Air

Join us for a holiday that unlocks the secrets of undiscovered Croatia and its offshore islands. We fly from Gatwick or Manchester to Venice and stay for 2 nights in Rovinj, on Croatia's Istrian Peninsula, 5 nights on the Croatian island of Losinj and 1 night in Treviso, near Venice in Italy. In Treviso there is an option to stay a 2nd night with a visit to Venice including water-taxi transfers and guided walking tour.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return flights to Venice from Gatwick & Manchester • 2 nights half-board in Rovinj • 5 nights half-board in Mali Losinj • 1 night half-board in Treviso • Transfers & ferry crossings abroad

9 DAYS HALF BOARD FROM £979pp

6 June (£979) & 26 Sept (£999) 2013 Quote RM6/9-KOS

Amsterdam & Bulbfields River Cruise

Escorted Rail-Cruise

The Dutch Bulbfields are always popular, and a visit to renowned Keukenhof Gardens is a must. Amsterdam offers something for everyone to enjoy, with its beautiful canals, museums, flower markets, specialist shops, cafés, bars and much more. We will also cruise to the picturesque old fishing towns of Volendam and Hoorn. Travel to join the cruise in Amsterdam is by rail from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel to Amsterdam • 4 nights full board cruise on the MV Virginia sharing a twin bed outside cabin - upgrades available • Visit to Keukenhof Gardens • Transfers abroad

5 DAYS FULL BOARD FROM £549pp

29 April 2013 Quote AB4-KOS

Rhine & Moselle River Cruise

Escorted Rail-Cruise

Come with us on a charming river cruise on the Rhine and Moselle in southern Germany. Relax on board the MV Virginia as she glides silkily past romantic hilltop castles, picturesque vineyards and historic riverside towns. To join the ship we travel by train from London (Ebbsfleet on request) with just 1 train change.

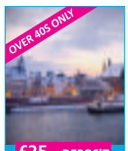
INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel to Cologne • 5 nights full-board cruise on the MV Virginia sharing a twin outside cabin - upgrades available • Welcome cocktail on arrival • Cup of coffee/tea each morning and afternoon • Captain's dinner • Live music one evening • Transfers abroad

6 DAYS FULL BOARD FROM £659pp

25 September 2013 Quote TR9-KOS

Valkenburg, Liege & Maastricht Christmas Markets River Cruise

Escorted Rail-Cruise



Join us for a relaxing river cruise taking-in Holland & Belgium and Christmas markets in Valkenburg, Maastricht & Liege - PLUS the option to visit Aachen Markets in Germany. The mps Princess - exclusively chartered by us - will host you in comfort and style with (almost) everything on board included: beer, wine by the glass, Dutch spirits & soft drinks served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar - PLUS - breakfast, lunch, afternoon cakes, dinner, late snacks - PLUS - entertainment.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from St Pancras or Ebbsfleet • 3-night semi-all-inclusive cruise on the mps Princess • Outside, en-suite twin cabin • Entertainment • Transfers abroad

4 DAYS SEMI-ALL-INCLUSIVE FROM £389pp

30 Nov & 3 Dec 2013 Quote XL11/12-KOS

Slovenia's Lake Bled & Adriatic Coast

Escorted Holiday by Air

Bordered by Italy, Austria, Hungary & Croatia, Slovenia must be one of Europe's best kept secrets, from the balmy Adriatic coast to stunning Lake Bled, this former Yugoslavian state surprises and delights visitors. We stay 3 nights at Lake Bled, including beer, wine & soft drinks with dinners and 4 nights near Piran on the Adriatic coast, including a coastal cruise. The journey from coast to Bled includes a ride on the Bohinj Railway, one of Europe's great rail journeys.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return flights from Gatwick, Heathrow, Birmingham & Manchester to Venice • 7 nights half board hotel stay • Excursions • All transfers abroad

8 DAYS HALF BOARD+ £849pp

3 September 2013 Quote PB9-KOS

Riviera of Flowers Monaco & Portofino

Escorted Holiday by Rail

This super holiday taking in the French & Italian Rivieras, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras before taking an afternoon Eurostar to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice then to Italy's Riviera of Flowers. Enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel and excursions to Monaco, Eze, Portofino & Dolceacqua.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille • 6 nights in Diano Marina - half board plus free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night • All excursions • Transfers abroad

8 DAYS SEMI ALL INCLUSIVE FROM £799pp

14 April, 1 June (£849), 19 & 25 Sept, 2013 Quote RF-KOS

Tuscany Coast & Country Explorer

Escorted Holiday by Rail

Tuscany is rightly famed for its rolling hills, historic towns & cities all bathed in a marvellous temperate climate. Our tour includes visits to Siena, Florence, Montecatini, Forte di Marmi, Pisa and Lucca with time to enjoy their magic.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris • 7 nights half board at the Hotel Panoramic in Montecatini Terme PLUS Tea/coffee with dinner & Free bar between 19.00 and 22.00hrs each evening (selected house brands) • 1 night hotel B&B on the Italian Riviera en-route home • Transfers & touring abroad

10 DAYS SEMI ALL INCLUSIVE £999pp

15 May & 2 Sept 2013 Quote TT5/9-KOS

Italian Riviera

Portofino & Cinque Terra

Escorted Holiday by Rail

Italy's Ligurian Riviera is home to the popular resorts of Portofino, Santa Marguerita and the fabulously higgledy-piggledy Cinque Terra villages - a string of five towns which appear to defy gravity by clinging to the rugged hillsides above the sea. We also visit Pisa & Lucca and have the option to visit Florence.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne check-in at St Pancras • Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Nice (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris outbound • 6 nights half-board at the Hotel Tigullio in Lavagna • Welcome and farewell drink • Ligurian dinner one evening • 1 night hotel B&B on the Italian Riviera en-route home • Transfers & touring abroad

9 DAYS HALF BOARD £949pp

26 September 2013 Quote EL9-KOS

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Monaco Supercars, Paris & the Cote d'Azur

Escorted Break by Rail, 5 days £639, 18 April 2013 - Quote MT4-KOS

Top Marques Monaco is a unique gathering of the world's top supercar manufacturers. From Bugatti to McLaren, get up close to these rare breeds in the seafront exhibition venue and on the principality's streets. The show utilises the Grand Prix circuit, part of which is closed to traffic for prospective buyers to experience a blood-pumping trial around the famous Rascasse corner, before driving through Casino Square.

Ferrari Live the Dream in Maranello

Escorted by air from Gatwick, 4 days, £499, 25 April & 17 Oct 2013 - Quote FC4/10-KOS

Come with us to Maranello in Northern Italy - home to the most famous sports car maker in the world - Ferrari. Our 4-day tour takes in all the sights of Maranello - the Ferrari Museum, Fiorano Test Track, Enzo Ferrari Museum in Modena and more. No trip to Maranello would be complete without taking a Ferrari for a spin. Test drives are possible at extra cost with options to drive a range of models, including the new California.

Pau Historic Grand Prix & Paris

Escorted Break by Rail, 5 days £749, 9 May 2013 - Quote HG5-KOS

Pau is home to the oldest city racing circuit in the world and scene of the first grand prix, in 1901. Located in the French region of Gascony, with views of the Pyrenees, this elegant town will host the fourth Grand Prix de Pau Historique this May - rated as one of the best historic meetings in the world. With a private champagne check-in at London St Pancras, swift rail travel and a night in Paris this unique break is not to be missed.

Monaco Grand Prix Experience & Portofino

Escorted Holiday by Rail, 8 days, semi-all-inclusive, £899, 17 May 2013 - Quote GP5-KOS

Experience the glitz and glamour of Monaco at Grand Prix time and Italy's Portofino. The holiday begins with a Champagne check-in at London St Pancras, and the hospitality continues with free drinks every night at your hotel in Diano Marina on the Italy's Mediterranean coast. We include Grandstand tickets for the first practice day worth £65 (the same ticket on race day costs almost £400), with practice sessions for F1, GP2, F3 and Porsche Cup.

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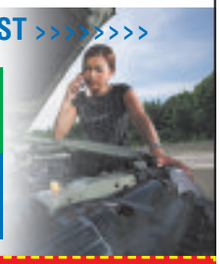

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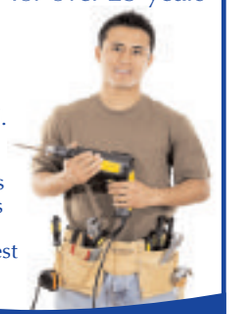

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Nissan set to take the Note to Geneva
- Toyota is Touring Sports with the Auris
- Kia Proceeds with latest coupé offering

Vauxhall's back to the beginning with its new Adam

Driving

Powered by motors.co.uk

drive24.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SKODA OCTAVIA

Price: £15,990
Driving appeal: not driven yet
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Ford Focus

Third-generation Octavia bulks up ready to face off with Ford

SKODA'S image changed overnight when the first modern-day Octavia arrived here in 1998.

Since then only the most Luddite brand snob has ignored how the Czech brand, under Volkswagen's control, has buried its flaky Communist-era past.

And the third-generation Octavia arriving on Saturday, March 16, (from £15,990) is set to consolidate Skoda's expansion and transformation of the past 15 years while launching a new era.

The newcomer retains the hatchback and estate options but has a crisper front end and side profile and is up to 102 kilos lighter, 90mm longer and 45mm wider, with a 108mm longer wheelbase to make the cabin larger.

It also changes position and target market within a revised seven-strong Skoda range.

Previously, the Octavia sold well by straddling two car sectors: firstly, as a keenly-priced yet bigger rival to cars like the Ford Focus and VW Golf, and secondly as a compact and cheaper alternative to models in the bigger Ford Mondeo class. This time, with the all-new Skoda Rapid tackling the Focus and company, the Octavia is free to bulk up and slug it out in the Mondeo sector and particularly the company-car 'user-chooser' arena.

It won't matter too much if the Octavia falls slightly short here, though, when it has such a loyal following in the private market – the foundation for Skoda's perennial success in customer satisfaction surveys.

After all, Octavia fans are unlikely to complain that their hero has become roomier and gained more tech and equipment yet still offers Skoda value across three familiar trim levels S, SE and Elegance.

Don't rule out hot vRS and posh Laurin & Klement versions arriving later, but Skoda has obviously laboured carefully over the current selection: buyers opting for the entry-level S get £3,500 of extra value over the equivalent predecessor; mid-range SE has extra equipment worth £2,220 for just £1,200 more than the S model and this, Skoda claims, represents a total gain of £3,890 over the outgoing car.

Finally, the Elegance flagship adds £1,850 in price over the same engine in SE trim but comes with additional features worth £3,575 – this becomes a total added value of £5,300 against the generation-two equivalent.

The cabin certainly looks roomy and we can be sure fixtures and fittings have Skoda's usual solidity and no-nonsense ergonomics, while tech-lovers will like the eight-inch touchscreen included in the infotainment options.

The fleet and leasing sector will also struggle to ignore the value pitch, especially when four VW-inspired engine options – two petrol and two diesel, the latter priced from £18,040 – are so economical, including a road-tax-exempt diesel emitting just 89g/km of CO_2 and offering up to 83mpg on the official combined cycle.

POPULAR: Octavia fans don't have long to wait for the third incarnation of this Skoda model, which is sure to turn a few heads in the company-car sector, too

DON'T LIKE

... the way some diehards will snub it because of the value badge. We've yet to drive it, but it won't be a dog and remains excellent value.

NOT SURE

... it really will muscle its way into the company-car sector now dominated by premium cars, but it will give Ford and Vauxhall a headache.

REALLY LIKE

... the crisp new lines. Styling had become its weak suit, but recent models have shown a new flair to match the brand's usual practicality.

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On the inside, it's more spacious than its predecessor, with a boot that's bigger than any of its rivals. And on the outside, its sharp, precise lines and bold new design will make you look good too.

***ŠKODA Octavia S 1.2 TSI 105PS starts from £15,900 OTR.** Model shown is Octavia Elegance 1.4TSI 140PS with optional Brilliant Silver metallic paint, Bi-Xenon lighting package and 18" 'Golus' alloy wheels £22,135 OTR

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA Octavia range: Urban 43.5 (6.5) - 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 53.3 (5.3) - 74.3 (3.8). CO_2 emissions 121 - 99 g/km.

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CC riders get more style for less

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RESHAPING the front and back of Volkswagen's elegant Passat CC last year also trimmed the model name.

It lost its dubious association with the staid Passat saloon and estate range and is now CC plain and simple, but that label still doesn't quite fit: CC has been used widely elsewhere to describe a 'coupé convertible' and this plainly isn't.

On the other hand, it chimes with VW's 'comfort coupé interpretation of CC, meaning four doors for easy access, with upmarket cabin and level of refinement, plus an executive stance.

The CC's facelift also brings it in line with current VW corporate design and delivers a bolder and racier stance, which a decent engine line-up makes it more than capable of living up to.

Even the entry-level turbocharged 158bhp 1.8-litre petrol (from £24,050) delivers a sporty 0-62mph in 8.5 seconds, while the tax-friendly star – the 138bhp 2.0TDI BlueMotion Technology tested here – is slowest with a respectable 9.8 seconds. This wears all the tax and eco-friendly BlueMotion add-ons, including battery recharging/energy recovery during braking, and fuel- and emissions-saving stop/start.

And there is a lot of smooth output low down the rev range, so you don't feel you are hanging about when you need to exit a junction smartly.

It also has the CC's good all-round chassis; this is clearly not intended to be an all-out coupé but more a sporting saloon that's comfortable and rides well while still having good grip and poise on the corners.

Optional £850 Adaptive Chassis Control (ACC) offering Sport, Normal or Comfort settings aided this aspect on the test car. I tended to leave it in Sport, which relays more road defects than some might like but is easily resolved by hitting a button on the centre console to reset to a softer choice.

Where the CC's sporty pretensions are more hindered is by speed-sensitive steering, which is a little light for good feedback, though I suspect most buyers will want the car more for its eye-catching looks and long-distance touring comfort.

The cabin is impeccably fitted out with typically-reserved VW style and great durability. Our car's concession to a little more razzamatazz was a £1,105 upholstery upgrade that looks good value, bringing smart Nappa leather seats, with heated and air-conditioned front ones, massage function on the driver's seat and heated windscreen-washer jets – all welcome during the latest cold weather.

Headroom is a little compromised by the rakish coupé roofline, but the CC is otherwise a spacious place to be, with good legroom front and back and a sizeable boot that even has space for a spare wheel.

I recall that VW threw in the towel on its original choice of rear accommodation with the Passat CC, which allowed just two luxurious rear seats. This was a clear nod towards the prestigious Mercedes-Benz CLS four-door coupé but an affectation that didn't go down well with grounded customers for the more modestly-priced VW.

So, the CC now has standard 2+1 rear seating, with a generous centre armrest pulling down over the middle perch for those occasions when you still want luxury for just two in the rear.

The cabin also has plenty of stowage and I'm a big fan of VW's iPod/MP3-player connection point, which folds neatly up into the roof of the glovebox.

It further underlines what a class act this car is and, were it not for the big-selling BMW 3 Series, VW would probably sell far more – few four-door cars offer such coupé style for a relatively modest outlay.

COMFORT COUPÉ: The newly-renamed CC offers a lot of style for a relatively modest outlay and is bound to prove popular with motorists

VW CC GT 2.0TDI 140 BLUEMOTION TECHNOLOGY: £27,885 FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
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Best rival:	BMW 3 Series

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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

Note No2 due next month

NISSAN'S all-new British-built Note mini-MPV makes its world debut at the Geneva Motor Show on Tuesday, March 5, and is said to herald a wave of new models from the brand.

Economy is one of the second-generation car's highlights, allied with low CO_2 emissions – including a road-tax-exempt 95g/km option – and an eco-efficient stop-start system that comes as standard.

Auris 'estate' has a hybrid

TOYOTA is to launch an estate option on its mid-sized British-built Auris range for the first time, though, in keeping with current trends, it won't be labelled as such.

The racy-looking and sounding 'Touring Sports' will include a petrol-hybrid version with, says Toyota, no compromise in load space, size, capacity and versatility due to the petrol-electric powertrain's battery pack.

Proceed to go with coupé

ORDER books are open for Kia's classy-looking three-door hatch-cum-coupé version of its successful Ceed model.

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Vauxhall's four-letter put down to Mini & co

FIRST DRIVE

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A MILLION CHOICES: From the look of the interior to options such as IntelliLink, the Adam Shop at Westfield recently showcased just how customisable the car really is

BMW started the customisation game with the Mini, but Vauxhall has upped the ante with its new Adam.

This posh new city car is advertised with an unprecedented million combinations. Motoring scribes saw just an impressive few in the temporary Adam Shop at the gargantuan Westfield Shopping Centre, Stratford, next to the Olympic Village and a natural habitat of the car's target buyers: those who deliberate over their car, its colour and its trim as much as they do their clothes and appearance.

It's what I call the handbag/manbag sector, where the Mini paved the way for others like the Fiat 500 and Citroën DS3. But they've been outdone by Vauxhall, which has reinvented itself lately to attract private buyers as much as its company-car-sector mainstay.

Its cars look more stylish and the interiors combine quality, ergonomics and design, and the Adam hits new heights; much thought lies behind the customisation, even down to coloured flashes for certain alloys and a wild array of dashboard permutations. And if you get bored, dealers can quickly swap some features for you.

There are even wacky cabin headliners, the ultimate being clouds inset with LED stars. Apparently, only Rolls-Royce offers anything like it, but this costs the price of an Adam.

There's also a nifty infotainment system, IntelliLink, which syncs Apple or Android smartphones with the car's big seven-inch touchscreen to harmonise music, photos, contacts and sat-nav.

People who really ought to get out more have also come up with an exterior colour palette including movie-inspired shades I'll Be Black, Purple Fiction, James Blonde, Saturday White Fever and Buzz Lightgreen.

But just in case buyers haven't a clue where to start 'dressing up', there are starter trim levels: Jam, for younger buyers; Glam, for discerning females; and sporty Slam – for the boys.

This custom blitz doesn't hide tangible quality, though; the Adam feels hewn from rock and need not doff its designer cap to rivals – with a starting price of £11,255, Vauxhall sees the Fiat 500 and low-end Mini One as key competitors.

Like most city cars, the Adam is tight in the back and has a small boot. I'm not sure about the name, either, apparently thrust upon Vauxhall by German sister brand Opel to commemorate founder Adam Opel. Who?

Away from the Adam Shop's razzamatazz, I was impressed by the car's refinement. The entry-level 69bhp 1.2-litre petrol is the better drive, with decent response and nimbleness; the 86bhp 1.4 seemed a tad noisier and heavier – a 99bhp version of this is also available. Vauxhall will follow later with a three-cylinder eco-model and fire-breathing hot version.

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Arriving in March, the new ŠKODA Octavia is the most advanced car we've ever made. Our host of Driver Assistant Systems are there to help make driving even easier, whether they are working to keep you in your lane, helping to detect if you're getting tired or help you maintain a safe distance from the car in front.
All from just £15,990 OTR.*

On the inside, it's more spacious than its predecessor, with a boot that's bigger than any of its rivals. And on the outside, its sharp, precise lines and bold new design will make you look good too.

For more information please contact:

Sherlodge Garage
26 Hoath Lane
Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0SW

08433 201661

www.kentskoda.co.uk

***ŠKODA Octavia S 1.2 TSI 105PS starts from £15,900 OTR.** Model shown is Octavia Elegance 1.4TSI 140PS with optional Brilliant Silver metallic paint, Bi-Xenon lighting package and 18" 'Golus' alloy wheels £22,135 OTR

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA Octavia range: Urban 43.5 (6.5) - 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 53.3 (5.3) - 74.3 (3.8). CO_2 emissions 121 - 99 g/km.

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Hyundai i10

Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example

i10 Classic 1.2

36 Monthly Payments of	£99.00
On The Road Price	£6,995.00
Customer Deposit	£1,559.75
Amount of Credit	£5,435.25
Interest Charges	£848.75
Optional Final Payment	£2,720.00
Total Amount Payable	£7,843.75
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.55% p.a.
Duration of Agreement	3 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
Representative APR	6.9%*

Hyundai i20

Personal Contract Purchase Example

i20 Classic 1.2 3dr

36 Monthly Payments of	£119.00
On The Road Price	£8,695.00
Hyundai Deposit Contribution	£250.00
Customer Deposit	£1,805.50
Amount of Credit	£6,639.50
Interest Charges	£1,044.50
Optional Final Payment	£3,400.00
Total Amount Payable	£9,739.50
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.55% p.a.
Duration of Agreement	3 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
APR	6.9%*

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UNLIMITED MILEAGE WARRANTY

Models shown: i10 Classic 1.2 at £6,995 OTR (includes £1,350 customer saving) in Electric Red solid paint at no extra cost. i20 Classic 1.2 3dr at £8,695 OTR (includes £1,300 customer saving) in Electric Red solid paint at no extra cost. On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. *6.9% APR available on all new Hyundai i10 and i20 models. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st January and 31st March 2013, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Triple Care terms and conditions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk/owners/triple5 or ask your local Dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i10 Classic 1.2: Urban 50.4 (5.6), Extra Urban 68.9 (4.1), Combined 61.4 (4.6), CO_2 Emissions 108 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 3dr: Urban 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 57.6 (4.9), CO_2 Emissions 114 g/km.

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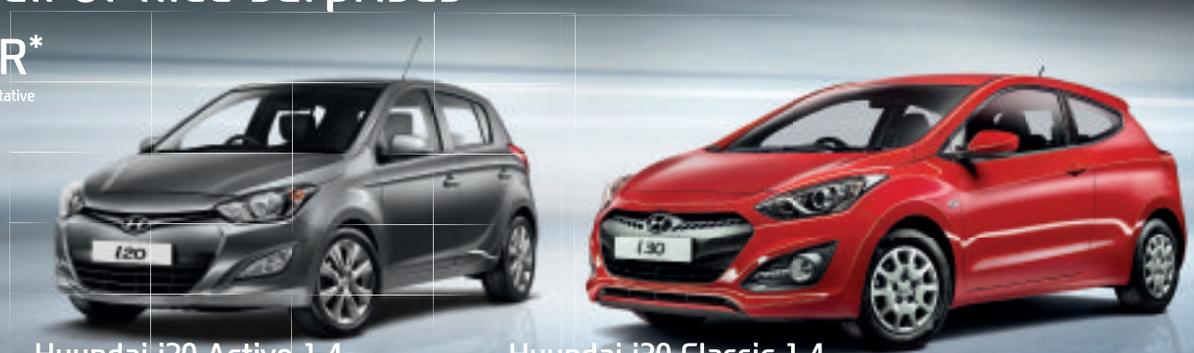
0% APR* Representative



Hyundai i20 Active 1.4
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Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4
From £189 per month

Grays Hyundai 01634 408408
1-9 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4EN www.grayshyundai.co.uk

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*0% finance available on Hyundai i20 Active 1.4 5 door and i30 Classic 1.4 3 door models on Conditional Sale between 2nd January 2013 and 31st March 2013. 50% minimum deposit required. Models shown: i20 Active 1.4 5 door at £12,530 OTR including metallic paint. £159 per month with £6,806 deposit over 36 month term and i30 Classic 1.4 3 door at £13,995 OTR in solid paint. £189 per month with £7,191 deposit over 36 month term. Finance subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Triple Care terms and conditions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i20 Active 1.4: Urban 40.4 (7.0), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 54.3 (5.2), CO_2 Emissions 122 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4 3 Door: Urban 35.8 (7.9), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 47.1 (6.0), CO_2 Emissions 139 g/km.

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Motor Vehicle ***Ref: P013***

Salary: £26,336 - £30,118 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Full time, Medway

We are looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and forward-thinking individual who has both the industrial knowledge and experience of working within the FE sector to deliver Motor Vehicle in the new training facilities at our Medway Campus. The post will require an effective team player who is innovative and flexible to respond to the demands of the curriculum. You will have at least a Level 3 qualification or equivalent in Automotive Engineering and a relevant teaching qualification or have a willingness to undertake a formal teaching qualification to the required national standards. Level 2 English and Mathematics qualifications are essential as is a commitment to student success. Recent experience of teaching young people from Entry 3 to Level 2 would be an advantage.

Closing Date: 27th February 2013

To apply for this vacancy please contact job.applicatons@midkent.ac.uk

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

To apply please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application form.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

Midkent College

Progression Mentor and Careers Guidance Co-Ordinator

Northfleet School for Girls

Gravesend, Kent

Term Time Only - 37 hours a week - KS7 £17,269 to £19,644 p.a. (£20,466-£23,280 fte)

We are a highly successful and ambitious 11-18 school. Our 2012 Ofsted has recognised that Northfleet School for Girls is a "good" school.

Recently rebuilt, this Co-Operative Learning Trust School offers an exciting opportunity to teach in a collegiate atmosphere where our motto "Always Learning, Learning All Ways" applies to everyone. The school has a strong sense of community and a belief in the values of self and social responsibility.

Our Progression Mentor and Careers Guidance Co-Ordinator will deliver and develop our careers education and guidance programme working closely with the school's Leadership Team and other key stakeholders as well as mentoring and supporting students and families to help them overcome barriers to progress into Post 16 and Higher Education.

FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING FULL JOB DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION FORM, AVAILABLE ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE - www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for Applications: Noon, Friday 1 March 2013

Interviews anticipated: w/c 11 March 2013

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Facilities Assistant (Caretaker)

Annual Salary: £10,664 - £18,554
Medway Campus

We are looking to recruit a hard working individual to participate in the day to day operational duties of the College Campus, assisting in the smooth running of the college and its properties. Your responsibilities will include providing a clean and safe environment for users of the campus building and grounds on all sites, and assist in other general facilities duties as required. This is a varied role that includes working with all manner of individuals, including: Staff, Students and Visitors.

Closing Date 25th February 2013

To apply for this position please contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

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Opportunities at Northfleet School for Girls

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We are a highly successful and ambitious 11-18 school. Our 2012 Ofsted has recognised that Northfleet School for Girls is a "good" school.

Recently rebuilt, the Learning Trust offers an exciting opportunity to teach in a collegiate atmosphere where our motto "Always Learning, Learning All Ways" applies to everyone. The school has a strong sense of community and a belief in the values of self and social responsibility.

Subject Leader of Mathematics

Main or Upper Pay Spine plus TLR1 (£9,013 p.a.)

With possible enhancement for an exceptional candidate

We seek an excellent practitioner who is a dynamic and innovative specialist Mathematics Teacher to lead our established, committed and successful team of five specialist mathematics teachers plus one Specialist Leader of Education as we move forward in transforming learning.

Mathematics is taught to all levels of ability including AS and A2 in the Sixth Form, is part of our Specialist School Status, and benefits from our new state of the art facilities. You will be innovative and imaginative and create challenging and engaging lessons whilst having a clear understanding of AfL and APP.

Teacher of English
Teacher of History

(MFL as a second subject desirable)

To be part of our Communication & Culture Domain (English, MFL. History and Ethics) in our new bespoke open plan teaching area. English comprises a team of five specialist English teachers, History - two and MFL - three teachers and a Language Assistant teaching French & Spanish.

FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING APPLICATION FORM & OFSTED REPORT, AVAILABLE ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE - www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for Applications: Noon, Friday 1 March 2013
Interviews anticipated: w/c 11 March 2013

To advertise in this section

01303 817056

New Lyminge Surgery
- Part Time
Practice Nurse Vacancy

New Lyminge Surgery is a small rural practice situated in the Elham valley. A vacancy has arisen for a Practice Nurse for 8.5 hours per week, worked as either a full day on Wednesday or split shifts between Wednesday morning and Monday afternoon. Experience of General Practice nursing is preferred but additional training is available for the right candidate.

Please send your CV and covering letter to
Marie Hunnisett Practice Manager
New Lyminge Surgery, Greenbanks,
Lyminge, Kent CT18 8NS

Email address: **marie.hunnisett@nhs.net**

Alternatively please phone for further information on **01303 863667**.

Closing Date: **4th March**

MANAGER
Holiday Property Bond | Sibton Park | Lyminge

The Holiday Property Bond is seeking to appoint a Manager for their exclusive self-catering holiday complex of 41 apartments and cottages in Lyminge.

The successful candidate will be responsible for organising and participating in all aspects of the day to day running of the operation. He or she must be totally customer focused with a welcoming, professional manner, have an eye for detail and a good sense of humour.

Applicants should send a comprehensive CV together with a recent photograph and an indication of salary expectation by **28th February 2013** to:

Nigel Burgess
Email **mhawes@hpb.co.uk**
www.hpb.co.uk

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer Health and Social Care 0.6 Part Time (Maternity Cover) ***Ref: P015***

£26,336 pro rata (Depending on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

This post requires an engaging and experienced teacher of child and health care from Key stage 4 to L3.Candidates need to demonstrate good knowledge of the care sectors and an up to date understanding of legislation relating to the safeguarding of children and adults . The ability to teach specific employment skills required for this growing employment sector is desirable. The post holder will be expected to assess and internally verify students' work and take part in the supervision of work placements. Part time work is available in addition to the maternity cover post.

Closing date: 01/03/2013

Faculty Administrator 0.6 Part Time (Maternity Cover) ***Ref: P016***

£18,066 pro rata (Depending on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

This post requires strong ICT skills and the ability to learn and use college systems associated with student records, learning materials and assessments in order to provide support to our varied and busy teaching teams in the Faculty of Public and Retail Services. The post holder should also be highly competent with routine administration work including the production of letters, reports and other documents as well as having confident and professional telephone and face to face liaison skills to work with the students, parents, suppliers and employers who are in daily contact with the Faculty.

Closing date: 01/03/2013

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

To apply please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application form.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Sessional Lecturer in Electrical Engineering ***Ref: P017***

£24.07 - £27.92 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

We are looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and forward-thinking individual who has both the industrial knowledge and experience of working within the FE sector to deliver and assess BTEC Electrical Engineering and PEO Level 2 NVQ electrical Units. The post will require an effective team player who is innovative and flexible to respond to the demands of the curriculum and learners.

You will have at least a Level 3 qualification or equivalent in Electrical Engineering, relevant teaching qualification and Assessors Award or have a willingness to undertake. Recent experience of teaching and/or training apprentices would be an advantage.

Closing date: 07/03/2013

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

To apply please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application form.

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Starting salary £18,200 - £19,500 per annum 37.5 hrs per week
One year fixed term (with possibility to extend)

Administrator

Starting salary £19,000 -£22,000 per annum 37.5 hrs per week
One year fixed term (with possibility to extend)

We are one of the lead members of the East Kent Carers' Consortium and have recently been awarded the contract to deliver services to Carers across the Dover District, Thanet and Canterbury & Coastal areas from April 2013. We must meet the requirements of a demanding service specification. This is an exciting time for us and we are looking to recruit some additional staff to help us rise to the challenges we face.

We are committed to providing consistently high quality support and advice services (both practical and emotional), to Carers across our area, and to reaching Carers who may face particular problems in finding the help they need to carry on caring.

Carer Support Worker: We are looking for a confident, versatile, sensitive and articulate person who will work with us to support Carers and to develop and deliver new services across the localities. Your main role will be to provide support and information to Carers on the phone or to those calling in at our Carers' Centre. You will also liaise with other agencies, make and take referrals, facilitate, develop and deliver outreach services and events.

This position is mainly office based, however you will be required to travel outside the office to attend meetings, complete one to one Carer's Assessments in clients' homes, to deliver outreach services and represent the organisation at external events. A full driving licence and your own transport are essential.

Administrator: We are looking for an experienced Administrator to be a key figure in supporting the C.E.O. and the Deputy in the smooth running of the organisation. You will need to be an enthusiastic and motivated person with excellent literacy and numeracy skills. The ideal candidate will have an excellent working knowledge of SAGE and Excel.

For an application pack, please write to:

Tricia Cole CEO
Carers' Support - Dover District & Thanet
80 Middle Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6HL
or email: **tricia@carers-doverdistrict.org**

Closing date: For returned applications by 14th March 2013.
Interviews will be held on Thursday 21st March 2013.

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Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0065/SH - Honeypot Farm Aldington Road Court-at-Street Hythe Kent - Extension and alteration of existing outbuilding for use as a storage and distribution china/cutlery business.

Y13/0115/SH - Channel Tunnel Terminal Ashford Road Newington Folkestone Kent - Installation of replacement 15 metre high monopole with two 300mm diameter dishes together with two equipment cabinets (56 day notification).

Y13/0122/SH - Mill House The Row Elham Canterbury Kent - Listed building consent for installation of roof light window to rear ground floor lean-to roof slope (retrospective application)

Y13/0102/SH# - 13 Sycamore Gardens Dymchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0LA - Pollarding of a Sycamore tree situated within a conservation area.

Y13/0059/SH# - First floor offices Aboyne House 46 High Street New Romney Listed building consent for internal alterations including replacement staircase in connection with proposed change of use and conversion of first and second floors from offices to 3 self contained flats (Class C3)

Y13/0040/SH# - First floor offices Aboyne House 46 High Street New Romney Kent - Change of Use and conversion of first and second floors from office accommodation to 3 self contained flats (Class C3)

Y13/0097/SH# - The Britannia Dungeness Road Dungeness Romney Marsh Kent - Erection of a new entrance porch to front elevation

Y13/0110/SH+ - 11 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5AE - Installation of 2 condenser units to the rear elevation following removal of existing units

Y13/0107/SH - Le Choix The Bayle Folkestone Kent CT20 1SQ - Erection of a single storey rear extension with balcony above, spiral staircase, rear external decking area and other external alterations

Y13/0125/SH - Communications Mast Military Road Folkestone Kent - Replacement of existing 12.5 metre telecommunication pole with a new pole of 12.5 metre tall with 2 No. dish antennas and an integrated antenna set within a widened upper portion, together with 1 No. equipment unit (Telecommunication development 56 day notification)

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
5. The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 11 MARCH 2013

SW/13/0076:
Advertisement Consent for display of one internally illuminated fascia sign and one internally illuminated projecting sign - 25 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0082:
Change of use of units 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 to Class B1(c) (light industrial) and Class B8 (storage only) use and units 2 (a & b) and 9 to Class B1(c) (light industrial) and B8 (storage and distribution) uses - Banks Farm, Conyer Road, TEYNHAM; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0089:
Advertisement consent for new Barclays non-illuminated individual lettering - Barclays Bank Plc., 4 Court Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0113:
Demolition of fire-damaged building and erection of replacement grain intake, drying, handling and storage facility - New Hook Farm, Lower Road, EASTCHURCH; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0117:
Mixed use development of Phase 2 area comprising 6,351sqm of A1 non-food retail floorspace, 1,395sqm B8 trade counter floorspace, 697sqm of A3 cafe/restaurant floorspace, and associated car parking and landscaping - Land West of A249 (Phase 2 of Neatscourt Development Site), QUEENBOROUGH; **REASONS 3, 4, 5 & 6**

SW/13/0120 & SW/13/0121:
Re-instate original door to the south west corner of the building where steps signify previous doorway - 9 Whitstable Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0135 & SW/13/0148:
Extension to house, replacement windows, barn conversion and replacement front gates - Colleys Cottage, Badlesmere Lees, BADLESMERE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/00199/FUL: 43 Western Avenue, Herne Bay, CT6 8UF Replacement UPVC windows to the front elevation. **Applicant: Mr Mark Bryant** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00212/FUL: 57 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UJ External and internal improvements to an existing brick-built outbuilding (summer house and painting studio). Replacement of flat felt roof with a pitched roof using local Kent peg tiles, clad existing brick exterior with traditional treated larch weatherboarding and replace existing windows and doors with timber framed windows and doors. **Applicant: Mr Norman** Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/00232/FUL: 5 Daniels Court, Whitstable, CT5 1ET Alterations to rear elevation to allowing the insertion of bifolding doors and replacement window. **Applicant: Mrs Hutton** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00235/LB: China Court, Church Lane, Petham, CT4 5RD Replacement of french doors and side panel **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Conway** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA//13/00245/FUL: Estates Buildings Office, University of Kent, Giles Lane, Blean, CT2 7NN Roof alterations to building within the curtilage of Hoath Court Farm House. **Applicant: Mr Hornsey** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/00255/ADV: Lloyds Bank, 14-16 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1BH Installation of illuminated fascia sign, Internally illuminated projecting sign, illuminated ATM header, illuminated heritage window and light strip non illuminated nameplate. **Applicant: Lloyd's Banking Group** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00257/FUL: 165 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EE Erection of new garage and double car port with storage space in the roof. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Mecklenburgh** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00258/CAC: 165 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EE Demolition of garage/garden store. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Mecklenburgh** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

CA//13/00268/FUL: Sunnyside, Frog Lane, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5HU Single-storey side extension **Applicant: Mr J Andrews** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00269/FUL: 58B Chestfield Road, Chestfield, CT5 3JH Two storey side extension providing annexe accommodation at ground floor. **Applicant: Mr K Watson** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00271/FUL: 42 School Lane, Blean, CT2 9JA Rear and side two-storey extension. **Applicant: Mr Swain and Mrs Parsons** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00274/FUL: Land north-west of Parkwood and east of Blean Primary School, Parkwood Road, Blean Erection of children's day nursery. **Applicant: Mr M Ashmore** Reason: Contrary to the development plan.

CA//13/00278/FUL: 9 High Street, Bridge, CT4 5JY Proposed two-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Hancock** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/00280/FUL: 36 School Lane, Blean, CT2 9JA Addition to side and rear to form entrance lobby, kitchen, shower room and WC. Internal alterations. **Applicant: Mrs Lewis** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00285/LB: Brooklands, 45 Fordwich Road, Fordwich, CT2 0BS Internal alterations and insertion of new window and rear balcony with new boundary wall. **Applicant: Mr Thorgerson** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA//13/00288/ADV: Whitstable Tennis Club, West Beach, Whitstable, CT5 1EH Erection of four windbreaks on west and south west boundaries of site **Applicant: Canterbury City Council** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00295/FUL: Outbuildings at Lynsore Court, Manns Hill, Upper Hardres, CT4 6EE Conversion of cart shed and stables to self-contained dwelling and conversion of granary from store to office including internal and external alterations and WC extension. **Applicant: David and Cathy Child** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 18 March 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 22 February 2013

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/2263/N - 32, HIGH STREET, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2QD - Installation of replacement timber windows, door and frames. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/13/0113/N - LITTLE MALTINGS, THE STREET, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4EL - Single storey rear extension. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/13/0154/S - THE VICTORIA INN, HEATH ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0LR - Construction of 5. no 3 bed houses of which 40% are to be affordable - (resubsmission of MA/12/0817). **Reason: 9**

MA/13/0164/S - SPRING BANK, RECTORY LANE, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3BT - Erection of a two storey side extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0179/N - OTTERDEN PLACE, BUNCE COURT ROAD, OTTERDEN, FAVERSHAM, KENT, ME13 0BU - An application for listed building consent for restoration of clock, including additional powering mechanism. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0219/N - REAR OF 11/13, ALBION PLACE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5DY - Application to extend the time limit for implementing permission MA/10/0205 (Erection of a three storey block of 6 one bedroom flats and 2 studio flats with associated parking and amenity space) for a further three years. **Reason: 1 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **10th March 2013** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 24th February 2013

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY (DYMCHURCH VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL has made the above Order under section 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, having obtained the consent of Dymchurch Parish Council and Kent County Council in accordance with Section 39(3) of the Act, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 of the Act -

This Order shall come into effect on the 1st April and will provide the following:

- **To introduce charges to the village hall car park and permit Shepway District Council to provide enforcement**

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined at the, District Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Parking Office), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240) during normal office hours.

A. Lague
Highways Engineer

On behalf of
B. Porter
Head of Communities
Shepway District Council
Civic Centre,
Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone, CT20 2QY

PLANNING

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2010 (AMENDMENT NO 15)

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes the following restrictions -

No waiting at any time on the following roads:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE: Keyes Place, Both sides, from its junction with **Hill Road**, north east for a distance of 12 metres; Hill Road, North east side, from a point 13.3 metres north west of its junction with Keyes Place to a point 15.5 metres south east of that junction; **Station Road**, Both sides, from its junction with Beachborough Road, north west for a distance of 15 metres; **The Stade**, Both sides, from a point in line with the party wall of numbers 10 and 11, east for its entire length; **The Warren**, Both sides, from its junction with Wear Bay Road, for its entire length; **Unnamed rear of Copthall Gardens**, Both sides, for its entire length; **ROADS IN DYMCHURCH**: Burmarsh Road, Both sides, from its junction with Dymchurch Road (A259), north for a distance of 127 metres; **Dymchurch Road**, North west side, from a point 26 metres east of its junction with Burmarsh Road to a point 21 metres south east of the junction; **Tritton Gardens**, Both sides, from its junction with Burmarsh Road, south west for a distance of 21 metres; **ROADS IN NEW ROMNEY: Church Approach**, Both sides, for its entire length; **Church Road**, Both sides, from its junction with Station Road to its junction with Church Approach; South east side, from its junction with Church Lane, south west for a distance of 16 metres; North west side, from its junction with Church Approach, south west for a distance of 46 metres; North west side, from a point 76 metres south east of its junction with Church Approach, to its junction with Victoria Street; Both sides, from its junction with Church Road, south east for a distance of 13.5 metres; **Langport Road**, Both sides, from its junction with Station Road, north east for a distance of 26 metres; **Littlestone Road**, North east side, from a point 47.5 metres south west of its southern junction with Warren Road to its junction with Station Road; South west side, from a point 24 metres south east of its junction with Station Approach, to its junction with Station Road; **Mountfield Road**, Both sides, from its junction with **Station Road**, south west for a distance of 46 metres; Station Road, North east side, from its junction with Littlestone Road, to a point 46 metres north west of its junction with Langport Road; South west side, from its junction with Littlestone Road, to a point 41 metres north west of its junction with Mountfield Road; **Warren Road (north west junction)**, Both sides, from its junction with Littlestone Road, north east for a distance of 59 metres; **Warren Road (south east junction)**, Both sides, from its junction with Littlestone Road, north for a distance of 46 metres

No stopping at any time on the following roads:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE: Park Farm Road, West side, from a point 39 metres north of its junction with Radnor Park Road, north for a distance of 26 metres; **ROADS IN NEW ROMNEY: Church Road**, North west side, from a point 46 metres south west of its junction with Church Approach, south west for a distance of 27 metres

Revocation of no waiting at any time from the following roads:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE: Holywell Avenue, Both sides, from a point 340 metres west of its junction with Canterbury Road (A260), west for a distance of 30 metres including the western and southern area of the turning head

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be amended by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing it can be inspected during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Amendment 15), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Amendment 15" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 18th March for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/00318/HOUSE 8A Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
- Conversion of garage into habitable space and extending over on first floor. Single storey rear extension. Render to ground floor (CA)

13/00243/FUL OS Plot 5500 Hawkhurst Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Change of use of land to mixed agricultural/equestrian and to provide a single timber building containing 4 stables, hay store and lambing shed (PROW)

13/00290/FUL Five World Kitchen 99 - 101 Mount Pleasant Road, Culverden
- Change of use of first floor to mixed A3/A4 bar and restaurant use, with hours of operation 11.00 - 01.00 Mon - Wed, and 11.00 - 02.00 Thurs - Sun (CA)

13/00306/HOUSE Molyneux Lee 12A Molyneux Park Road, Culverden
- Single storey pitched roof extension to South East elevation and single storey flat roof extension to North West elevation with terrace above (CA)

12/03029/LBC Smugley Barn Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Single storey lean to extension to north elevation (LB)

13/00293/HOUSE Blackberry Cottage Rogers Rough Road, Goudhurst
- Replace existing conservatory on rear elevation with an oak frame structure and extend by 1 metre (LB) (CA)

13/00294/LBC Blackberry Cottage Rogers Rough Road, Goudhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Replace existing conservatory on rear elevation with an oak frame structure and extend by 1 metre (LB)

13/00255/HOUSE Rectory Park Rectory Park Road, Horsmonden
- Alterations to Grade II Star including removal of 20th Century rear addition and relocation of west court yard door, alteration of existing west range to accommodate new kitchen and first floor bedroom; Alterations to west range first floor ceiling structure to form new galleried bedroom; alteration of existing 20th century pool house to accommodate new 25m pool and reinstatement of history bothy adjacent to accommodate gym/plant room (LB)

13/00256/LBC Rectory Park Rectory Park Road, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to Grade II Star including removal of 20th Century rear addition and relocation of west court yard door, alteration of existing west range to accommodate new kitchen and first floor bedroom; Alterations to west range first floor ceiling structure to form new galleried bedroom; alteration of existing 20th century pool house to accommodate new 25m pool and reinstatement of history bothy adjacent to accommodate gym/plant room (LB)

13/00328/HOUSE White Rose Cottage 87A Frant Road, Pantiles & St Marks
- Two storey rear extension (CA)

13/00299/HOUSE Calverley Park Cottage Prospect Road, Park
- Demolition of garage and erection of a single storey extension to include alterations to front porch (LB) (CA)

13/00305/LBC Calverley Park Cottage Prospect Road, Park
- Listed building consent - Demolition of garage and erection of a single storey extension to include alterations to front porch (LB)

13/00343/HOUSE 3 St Marys Lane Speldhurst, Speldhurst
- Single storey front extension, single storey side extension leading to open oak frame garden room, two storey rear extension (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 23 February 2013

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/SE/0039/2013 - Proposed development at Lady Boswell's CE Primary School, Plymouth Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3RW.

Kent County Council Property and Infrastructure Support is applying to the Kent County Council (as the County Planning Authority) for planning permission for a proposed single storey building to accommodate six classrooms with associated welfare facilities, extension to the existing hall to achieve a second hall space, extension to existing classrooms, extension of playground area, upgrading of existing pedestrian access path from the Leisure Centre, installation of a wall mounted canopy and existing bank adaptations to provide new emergency vehicle access to the rear of the school. The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated as it is located within the Metropolitan Green Belt.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 24th February 2013

Kent County Council

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MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Royal Wells Hotel, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells**

Applicant: **Martin Lyall**

Name of Premises: **Chiddingstone Castle, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone**

Applicant: **Alison Ditzel**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

Kent County Council

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Tenterden Town Hall, High Street, Tenterden**

Applicant: **Hester Deackes**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

Kent County Council

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CW16 IN THE PARISH OF WHITSTABLE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH CW16 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath CW16, between Church Lane and Trade Winds from the 4th March 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before April 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via the pedestrian access from Church Lane to Thistle Drive, along Thistle Drive to Trade Winds, and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR737, SUNDRIDGE)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 6 February 2013 an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a Public Footpath (SR737) with a width of 1 metre which commences on New Road adjacent to Ridgewood Cottage at NGR TQ 4815 5346 (Point A) and runs in a westerly direction for 79 metres to its connection with Public Bridleway SR259 at NGR TQ 4807 5346 (Point B).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there at the price of £5.

This Order became operative as from 6 February 2013 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 24 February 2013 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 24th February 2013**

This document can be made available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817056

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

CHART ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chart Road, Ashford, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 3 weeks.

The road will be closed from the vicinity of the railway bridge to the junction with Repton Manor Road.

The alternative route is via Chart Road, A292 Maidstone Road, Drovers Roundabout and A28 Templar Way, with westbound traffic continuing to the New Street roundabout to rejoin Chart Road, due to the one-way system.

Access remains for Repton Manor Road traffic at its junction with Maidstone Road.

CHURCH ROAD, SMEETH & HIGH HALDEN ROAD, BIDDENDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching followed by micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Smeeth & High Halden Road, Biddenden, on or after 25 February 2013, as shown below.

CHURCH ROAD, SMEETH - will be closed between the A20 Hythe Road and The Ridgeway, as follows

Patching works - 25 February 2013 for 1 week, between 09:00 hours and 15:00 hours each day

Micro Surfacing - Friday 15 March and Monday 18 March 2013, between 09:00 and 15:00 hours each day

Alternative Route via A20 Hythe Road and The Ridgeway

HIGH HALDEN ROAD, BIDDENDEN - will be closed between the A262 Biddenden Road and Bush Lane, as follows

Patching Works - 25 February 2013 for 1-2 weeks, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours each day

Micro Surfacing - 25 March 2013 for 3 days, and 2 April 2013 for 1 day, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours each day

Alternative Route via A262 Tenterden Road, A262 Biddenden Road, High Halden Lane, High Halden Road and Bush Lane

For both locations, additional 2-day closures will be required within 14 days of completion of surfacing, to allow for adjustment of covers in the carriageway.

LEACON LANE LAY-BY, A20 ASHFORD ROAD, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Leacon Lane Lay-by, A20 Ashford Road, Charing, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 5 days, or until the works have been completed.

The lay-by will be closed at its southern junction with the A20 Ashford Road.

Access will remain via the other junction, which also includes access to Leacon Lane itself.

B2080 THE STREET, APPLEDORE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install traffic calming measures, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2080 The Street, Appledore, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 4 days, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Military Road and Court Lodge Road.

There will be no direct access between Tenterden and the Romney Marsh using this route.

The alternative route is via The Street, Tenterden Road, Reading Street, Appledore Road, Woodchurch Road, Brook Street, B2067 Kenardington Road, Warehorne Road, The Street, Marsh Road, Ashford Road, A2070 Ashford Road to Brenzett Corner Roundabout, B2080 Rhee Wall Road and Station Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY

BURSTED HILL, UPPER HARDRES (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bursted Hill, Upper Hardres, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Pett Bottom Road for a distance of approximately 50 metres.

The alternative route is via Bursted Hill, Hardres Court Road, Tapleys Hill and Pett Bottom Road.

B2205 TOWER PARADE, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new cycle and pedestrian crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2205 Tower Parade, Whitstable, on or after 25 February 2013 for up to 5 nights, between 19:00 hours and 06:00 hours each night.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of a point between the car park and the Health Centre, opposite the Harbour Office.

There will be no through access for traffic between the junctions with Cromwell Road and Northwood Road.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Cromwell Road, Railway Avenue, Teynham Road, Castle Road (continuing across Northwood Road) and Tankerton Road

Westbound via St Anne's Road, Northwood Road, Castle Road, Teynham Road, Railway Ave and Cromwell Road

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VARIOUS ROADS, CANTERBURY AREA (MICRO-SURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching followed by micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Canterbury Area for micro-surfacing works, on or after 25 February 2013, as shown below.

For each site, additional closures will be necessary within 2 weeks from the surfacing, to allow for re-alignment of iron work in the carriageway.

For those roads with no alternative routes, every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so, but the nature of the works will mean there are some times when this is not possible.

MAYPOLE LANE, HOATH - will be closed between its two junctions with Maypole Road

Patching Works 25 February for 1 week, between the hours of 07:00 hours to 19:00 hours.

Micro-surfacing: 14, 15 and 18 March 2013 (3 days in total), between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours.

Additional closure required for a further 2 days

The alternative route is via Maypole Road, Church Road and School Lane

TYLER HILL ROAD / CALAIS HILL, BLEAN will be closed between the junction with School Road and 200 metres east of Link Road

Patching works: 4 March 2013, for 5 days between 07:00 hours and 17:30 hours (with access maintained for school buses)

Micro-surfacing: 4 April 2013 for 4 days, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours

Additional closure may be required for a further 2 days

The alternative route is via Tyler Hill Road, A290 Blean Common, Blean Hill, Tile Kiln Hill, Whitstable Road, Giles Lane, Canterbury Hill and Calais Hill

NARGATE STREET, LITTLEBOURNE will be closed between the junction with A257 High Street and the 30 mph / National Speed Limit Signs

Patching: 11 March 2013 for 1 week, between 09:00 hours to 15:00 hours

Micro-surfacing 11 April 2013 for 2 days, between 09:00 hours and 15:00 hours

Additional closure may be required for a further 2 days

The alternative route is via A257 Canterbury Road, Wingham Lane, The Street, Wickham Lane and Wickham Road

CHURCH ROAD, HOATH will be closed between the junction with Maypole Road and the Church

Micro-surfacing 18 March 2013 for 1 day, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours

Additional closure required for a further day

The alternative route is via Maypole Road, Maypole Lane & School Lane

ST DUNSTAN'S CLOSE, CANTERBURY will be closed between the junction with London Road to the end of the cul-de-sac

Micro-surfacing 4 April 2013 for 1 day, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours

Additional closure may be required for a further day

There is no alternative route

THE GREEN, BLEAN will be closed between the junction with Tyler Green Road for its entire length

7 April 2013 1 day, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours

Additional closure may be required for a further day within 14 days.

There is no alternative route

ST VINCENT'S CLOSE, LITTLEBOURNE will be closed between the junction with junction with Court Hill to end of cul-de-sac

15 April 2013 for 1 day, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours

Additional closure may be required for a further day

There is no alternative route

VARIOUS ROADS, BARHAM AREA, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Barham Area, Canterbury, on or after 11 March 2013 as shown below.

All closures are between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day.

COLE HILL, BARHAM will be closed for its entire length (junctions with Covet Lane and Railway Hill)

11 March 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative route via Covet Lane, Valley Road and Greenhills

THE STREET / CHURCH LANE, BARHAM (The Street and Church Lane will be closed for their entire length (between junctions with Gravel Castle Road and Valley Road)

12 March 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative routes

Eastbound - Valley Road, Derringstone Hill, Derringstone Downs, Rabbit Hole and Church Lane

Westbound - Gravel Castle Road, Derringstone Hill, Derringstone Downs and Valley Road

OLD DOVER ROAD, BARHAM will be closed for its entire length (junction with Gravel Castle Road to the cul-de-sac section beyond Rectory Lane)

14 March 2013 for up to 2 days

Alternative route via Gravel Castle Road, Church Lane and Rectory Lane

WESTWOOD ROAD, KINGSTON will be closed between its junctions with Jesse's Hill and The Street.

14 March 2013 for up to 2 days

Alternative route via Westwood Road, Turks Hill and Marley Lane

COVET LANE, BARHAM will be closed for its entire length (junctions with Valley Road and Cole Hill)

16 March 2013 for 1 day

Westbound via Black Robin Lane, Bonny Bush Hill, The Street, Marley Lane and Turks Hill

Eastbound via Cole Hill, Greenhills and Valley Road

SOUTH BARHAM HILL, BARHAM / REDOAK LANE, ELHAM will be closed for its entire length (junctions with Derringstone Hill to Bladbean)

18 March 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative route via Elham Valley Road, Canterbury Road and Straight Hill

MARLEY LANE, KINGSTON will be closed between Junctions with Jess Hill and The Street

20 March 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative route via Marley Lane, Turks Hill, Covet Lane, Black Robin Lane, Valley Road and The Street

OUT ELMSTEAD LANE, BARHAM will be closed for its entire length - junctions with A2 Dover Road and Valley Road

21 March 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative Routes via

Eastbound via Valley Road and Black Robin Lane

Westbound A2 Dover Road, Black Robin Lane and Valley Road

JERSEY LANE, PETHAM will be closed for its entire length - junctions with Town Road and Watery Lane

28 March 2013 for up to 1 day

Alternative route via Town Road and Watery Lane

PETT BOTTOM ROAD, BRIDGE will be closed for its length (between Junctions with Bridge Road and School Lane)

2 April 2013 for up to 3 days

Alternative Route via Bridge Road, Faussett Hill, Hardres Court Road and School Lane

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

CHURCH HILL STONE LEVEL CROSSING, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to Arris rail and tarmac repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Hill Stone Travel Crossing, on or after 17th February 2013 for up to 1 night and 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside of the level crossing.

The alternative route is Church Hill Stone Place road , London road St Clements way Crossway Bolouvard and Charles street .

STATION APPROACH, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of safe access required by BT for poling lorry elavating platform, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Luddesdown Road Meopham, on or after 27th February 2013 for up to 2 daysor until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Oakenden Road to the junction with Henley Street.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Oakenden Road, Foxendown Road, The Street, Wrotham Road, Green Lane, Camer Road, Sole Street, Gold Street and Henley Street.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

A257 CANTERBURY ROAD, WINGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A257 Canterbury Road, Wingham, on or after 17 March 2013 as shown below.

Closures are planned for the Sundays of 17 and 24 March 2013, between 09:00 hours and 18:00 hours each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Wingham Lane and High Street, with no through access between Canterbury and Sandwich using the A257.

The alternative route is via A257 Canterbury Road, Wingham Road, Canterbury Road, Littlebourne Road, St Martin's Hill, Longport, Lower Chantry Lane, A2050 New Dover Road, A2 Dover Road, B2046 and Adisham Road.

CHEQUER LANE, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chequer Lane, Ash, on or after 14 March 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with The Street and Chilton Field.

The alternative route is via The Street, Queen's Road, Cop Street Road and Chequer Lane.

COOMBE VALLEY ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coombe Valley Road, Dover, on or after 4 March 2013 for up to 4 nights, between 19:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night.

The road will be closed from the junction with the A256 London Road to just north of Buckland Hospital (no.110 Coombe Valley Road).

The alternative routes are

Westbound via A256 London Road, Crabble Hill, Crabble Road, Crabble Avenue, Hillside Road, Bunkers Hill Road, St Radigund's Road and Barwick Road

Eastbound via Barwick Road, St Radigund's Road,

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

Bunkers Hill Road, Hillside Road, Crabble Avenue, Crabble Road, A256 Crabble Hill, London Road, Buckland Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue and London Road

DENTON LANE, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to the overhead phone cable network using an elevated platform, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Denton Lane, Denton, on or after 12 March 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 1530 hours each day.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A260 The Street, Canterbury Road and Shelvin Lane.

LUCERNE LANE, MARTIN, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water communication pipe works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lucerne Lane, Martin, Dover, on or after 25 February 2013 for up to 5 days, between 09:00 hrs and 16:30hrs each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with The Street and Martin Dale Crescent.

The alternative route is via The Street, East Langdon Road, Hollands Hill and Station Road.

MARSHBOROUGH ROAD, MARSHBOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marshborough Road, Marshborough, Woodnesborough, on or after 12 March 2013 for up to 3 days, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Rose Cottage.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Parsonage Farm Road and Beacon Hill Road.

The alternative route is via New Street, The Street, Guilton, A257 Ash Bypass, Sandwich Road, A258 Sandwich Bypass, Sandwich Road, The Street and Oak Hill to Marshborough Road.

MAYFIELD AVENUE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mayfield Avenue, Dover, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 1 day between 08:30 hours and 16:30 hours.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Nightingale Road.

Waiting will be prohibited the northern side of Mayfield Avenue between number 8 and number 20, for the times shown above.

PENCESTER ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pencester Road, Dover, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 5 nights, between 18:00 hrs and midnight each night.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A256 Maison Dieu Road, Woolcomber Street, A20 Townwall Street and York Street.

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER AREA (MICRO-SURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching followed by micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Dover Area on or after 25 February 2013, as shown below.

Additional closures may be required within 14 days of the surfacing closures, to allow for re-alignment of covers in the carriageway.

The dates of these will be advised locally and signposted on site.

STRAKERS HILL, EAST STUDDAL - will be closed between the junctions with Downs Road and Roman Road

Patching Works - 25 February 2013 for 2 days, between 07:00 hours and 17:00 hours each day

Micro surfacing - 10 March 2013 for 1 day, between 07:00 hours and 1900 hours.

Additional closure may be required for a further day.

Diversion Route via Homestead Lane and Roman Road

SALISBURY ROAD, DEAL - will be closed between the junctions with A258 Dover Road and Court Road

Micro surfacing 11 March 2013 for 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:00 hours each day, due to school

Additional closure required for a further day within 14 days.

Diversion Route via A258 Dover Road, Station Road and Court Road.

MILNER CRESCENT, AYLESHAM - will be closed in 2 phases

1) *between Dorman Avenue North and Boulevard Courrieres*

Alternative route via - Dorman Avenue North, Market Place, Kings Road, Queens Road, Market Place and Boulevard Courrieres

2) *between Boulevard Courrieres and Dorman Avenue South*

Alternative route via Dorman Avenue South, Market Place and Boulevard Courrieres

Micro surfacing 10 April 2013 for 2 days, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours each day

Additional closures required for a further 2 days

BALFOUR ROAD, DOVER - will be closed between the junctions with Beaconsfield Road and Cherry Tree Avenue

Micro surfacing 16 April 2013 for 1 day, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours.

Additional closure required for a further day.

Diversion Route via Beaconsfield Road, A256 London Road and Cherry Tree Avenue.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access from either direction up to the point of closure

A256 WHITFIELD HILL, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A256 Whitfield Hill, Dover, on or after 12 March 2013 for up to 1 day, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours.

The road will be closed between the junction with Kearsney Avenue and the Whitfield Roundabout.

The alternative routes are:

Westbound via A2 Whitfield Roundabout, A2 Trunk Road, Jubilee Way, A20 Townwall Street, York Street, A256 High Street, London Road, Crabble Hill and London Road.

From River via London Road, Crabble Hill, A256 Buckland Avenue, Barton Road, Frith Road, Maison Dieu Road, Woolcomber Street, A20 Townwall Street, A2 Jubilee Way and Whitfield Roundabout.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESHAM AREA

WEST CRESCENT ROAD, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the placement of scaffolding for a garage conversion, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Crescent Road, on or after 11th March 2013 for up to 21 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the rear of 21 Harmer street.

There will be no access for through traffic between the rear of 21 Harmer Street and to the side of 10 Bernard Street. Access to adjacent properties at the rear Harmer Street are to be maintained

The alternative route is via West Crescent Road Terrace Street Harmer Street and Milton Road.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

A249 MOTE ROAD, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A249 Mote Road, Maidstone, on or after 25 February 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the slip road with the junction of A229 Upper Stone Street.

The alternative route is via Knightrider Street, Mill Street, Palace Avenue, Lower Stone Street.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

BEESFIELD LANE, FARNINGHAM, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beesfield Lane, Farningham, Sevenoaks, on or after 25 February 2013 for up to 1 week and 13 March 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed. The road will also be closed for 2 days within 2 weeks of the resurfacing, as indicated by signage.

The road will be closed from A225 Eynsford Road to Donkey Lane.

The alternative route is via A225 Eynsford Road, A20 Main Road/Gorse Hill/London Road, Botsom Lane, Maplescombe Lane.

CHART LANE, BRASTED, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of allowing BT access for pole steps fitting works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chart Lane, Brasted, Sevenoaks, on or after 27th February 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Emmetts Lane for a distance of 600 metres and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Toys Hill Road, Green Lane, Ide Hill Road, Sundridge Road, New Road, High Street, Chart Lane.

HARTLEY BOTTOM ROAD, HARTLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the Installation of a meter by South East water, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hartley Bottom Road, on or after 11th March 2013 for up to 5 Days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Hartley Bottom Road and Longfield Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions

The alternative route is via Manor Road, onto Longfield road, Wrotham Road, Shipley Hill Road , Idleigh Court Road and Hartley Bottom Road.

NIGHTINGALE LANE, IDE HILL, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works access for pole replacement, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Nightingale Lane, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, on or after 11th March 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction B2042 north of its entire length. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via B2042, Un-named Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS (PRE-PATCHING TO SURFACE DRESSING) (PROHIBI TION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway patching works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Sevenoaks, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after **1st March 2013** for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place. **Each road indicated will need to be closed once for prepatching works (as per the schedule below) and a second time for the actual surface treatment works (Surface dressing or microsurfacing) later in the year (These dates will be advertised on information boards on each site, 14 days in advance of commencement).**

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

WILSON LANE, HORTON KIRBY - closed between Rabbits Road and Gill's Road

1 March 2013 for 4 working days

Alternative route via Rabbits Road, Canada Farm Road, Green Street Green Road and Gill's Road

BUCKHURST LANE, COWDEN - closed between Cow Lane to Cowden Pound Road

4 March 2013 for 5 days

Alternative route via Cow Lane, Buckhurst and Cowden Pound Road

FORCE GREEN LANE, WESTERHAM - closed between A233 London Road and Pilgrims Way

4 March 2013 for 3 days

Alternative route via A233 London Road and Pilgrims Way

BIRCHIN CROSS ROAD, SHOREHAM - closed between Clarkes Green Road and Bower Lane

7 March 2013 for 3 working days

Alternative route is via Clarkes Green Road and Goodbury Road

SCALLOPS, SUNDRIDGE - closed between B2042 Ide Hill Road to Winkhurst Green Road

11 March 2013 for 4 days

Alternative route via Ide Hill Road, Chequers Hill, Tonbridge Road, Bore Place Road and Winkhurst Green Road

COTMANS ASH LANE, KEMSING - closed between Clarkes Green Road and Pilgrims Way

12 March 2013 for 4 days

Alternative route via Tinkerpot Lane, St Clere Hill Road, Knockmill Lane, Old Terry's Lodge Road and Pilgrims Way

HALE OAK ROAD, SEVENOAKS WEALD - closed between B2027 Tonbridge Road and Bowzell Road

19 March 2013 for 4 days

Alternative route via B2027 Tonbridge Road, Camp Hill, Coppings Road, Scabharbour Road, Long Barn Road and Windmill Road

SOUTH BROOK LANE, BRASTED - closed between Green Lane and Toy's Hill

19 March 2013 for 2 days

Alternative route via Green Lane and Toy's Hill

CHELSFIELD LANE, SHOREHAM - closed between Shacklands Road and Hewitt's Road

20 March 2013 for 3 days

Alternative route via Shacklands Road, A224 Orpington by-pass and Hewitt's Road

BLUEBERRY LANE, KNOCKHOLT - closed between Main Road and Pound Lane

25 March 2013 for 3 days

Alternative route via Main Road and Pound Lane

ST JULIANS ROAD, SEVENOAKS WEALD - closed between A225 London Road and Fawke Wood Road

2 April 2013 for 6 working days between 09:15hrs and 15:30hrs

Alternative Route via River Hill, B245 London Road (via Morley's Roundabout), Bank Lane, Carter's Hill and Fawke Wood Road

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

BELLEVUE STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of junction improvement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bellevue Street, Folkestone, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 5 days, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with Dover Road and the entrance to the Health Centre Car Park.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

The alternative route is via A2033 Dover Road, St John's Street and Clarence Street.

A2033 DOVER ROAD & GRACE HILL, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A2033 Dover Road and Grace Hill, Folkestone, on or after 13 March 2013 for up to one night, between 20:00 hours through until 05:00 hours

The road will be closed between the junction with A260 Tontine Street and A2033 Shellons Street roundabout.

The alternative route is via A2033 Dover Road, A260 Dover Road, Hill Road, A259 Canterbury Road, Black Bull Road, Radnor Park Road, A2034 Cheriton Road and Foresters Way.

A259 HIGH STREET, NEW ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A259 High Street, New Romney, on or after 14 March 2013 for up to 4 nights, as shown below.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Church Road and Station Road.

Closures are planned for Thursday 14 March & Friday 15 March and Monday 18 March & Tuesday 19 March 2013, between 19:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night, with the road otherwise re-opened.

The alternative route is via B2071 Station Road, Littlestone Road, Marine Parade, Grand Parade Coast Drive, The Parade, Battery Road, Dungeness Road, Harden Road, B2075 Romney Road and A259 Lydd Road.

The One-way Traffic Orders in respect of Church Approach and Tritton Lane will be suspended to allow access.

NORTH LYMINGE LANE, LYMINGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on North Lyminge Lane, Lyminge, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at various points along its length.

The planned closure times are between 09:00 hours and 16:30 hours each day, Mondays to Saturdays.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever this is safe.

ST MARY'S ROAD, ELHAM & BOSSINGHAM ROAD, STELLING MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Mary's Road, Elham and on Bossingham Road, Stelling Minnis, on or after 13 March 2013 as shown below.

Additional closures may be required for each site within 14 days from the completion of surfacing, to allow for re-alignment of covers in the carriageway.

ST MARY'S ROAD, ELHAM will be closed between High Street and The Square, planned for 13 March for 1 day, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours

An additional closure may be required for a further day

The alternative route is via New Road, Vicarage Lane and Pound Lane

BOSSINGHAM ROAD, STELLING MINNIS will be closed from the school to Cherry Gardens Farm, planned for 13 March for 2 days, between 09:00 hours and 15:00 hours each day

Additional closure required for a further 2 days

The alternative route is via Curtis Lane, B2068, Stone Street and Lime Kiln Lane

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 1 ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to :-

Implement a reduced 30mph speed limit in Vicarage Lane, Elham. The existing 30mph limit in Vicarage Lane will be extended past Hog Green to cover the remaining properties in the Village centre on this road.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Tony Jenson, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 18/03/2013.

THE STADE, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Stade, Folkestone, on or after 26 February 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with North Street and East Street.

There will be no access for any vehicles taller than 6' 6" into The Stade during these works

The alternative route, *for low height vehicles only*, is via Radnor Street, A2033 The Tram Road, Harbour Street, Beach Street and Fish Market.

It is hoped that the road can be re-opened outside working hours (08:00 and 17:00 hours), but this cannot be guaranteed, due to the nature of the works

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF SWALE) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 1 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to introduce a new 40mph speed limit as per the following schedule

Sheppey Way, Bobbing	From its junction with the Bobbing Interchange roundabout south-westwards for a distance of 350 metres
Bobbing Interchange, Bobbing	For its entire length
Staplehurst Road, Bobbing	From its junction with Bobbing Interchange eastwards for a distance of 50 metres

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 25/02/2013, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD. Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

HIGH STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvements in connection with Ramsgate Leisure Centre, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Ramsgate, on or after 11 March 2013 for up to 4 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the Leisure Centre and the junction with Paradise.

The alternative route is via South Eastern Road, A255 Park Road and Chatham Street.

HIGHWAYS- TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

ALLENS LANE, PLAXTOL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to access BT poles and overhead cabling, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Allens Lane, Plaxtol, on or after 14 March 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Brook Lane to outside Allens Farm.

The alternative route is via Allens Lane, Long Mill Lane, Brook Lane.

BIRLING ROAD, LEYBOURNE, TONBRIDGE & MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace bridge parapets and safety barriers, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Birling Road, Leybourne, Tonbridge & Malling, on or after 11/19/27 March 2013 for a period of up to 1 night between 20.00hrs and 06.00hrs, from 20.00hrs 15 March 2013 to 06.00hrs 18 March 2013 and from 20.00hrs 22 March 2013 to 06.00hrs 25 March 2013 or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the M20 over bridge.

The alternative route is via Bull Road, Ryarsh Road, Birling Road, The Street, Roughetts Road, A20 London Road, Birling Road.

BUTCHERS LANE, MEREWORTH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new gas service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Butchers Lane, Mereworth, on or after 25 February 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside 244.

The alternative route is via Beech Road, Horns Lane, Willow Wents.

WOODLANDS ROAD, AYLESFORD/DITTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Woodlands Road, Aylesford/Ditton, on or after 11 March 2013 until 30 April 2013 and then from 30 April 2013 until 8 July 2013 or until the works have been completed.

The first closure will be between A20 London Road and Holtwood Avenue and the next will be from Holtwood Avenue to outside number 196 Woodlands Road.

The alternative route is via A20 London Road, New Road, Woodlands Road and for the second closure is via Holtwood Avenue and Brassey Drive.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS

CORNFORD LANE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace BT telegraph poles and cabling and to install a new kerb line and patch the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cornford Lane, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 12 March 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route is via Halls Hole Road, A264 Pembury Road, High Street.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 24th February 2013**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

CRICKET

Adams confident Kent have pre-season training covered

This year county have swapped the Caribbean for an all-purpose marquee at the St Lawrence Ground to get players fit, as **Greg Miles** discovers

KENT are just a week away from the start of their pre-season training, but they will not be jetting off to Antigua this year to get fit.

Instead they will be getting ready for the new campaign under a marquee erected at the St Lawrence Ground.

The marquee was successfully put to the test by Essex last year as they beat the wet spring weather to prepare for the season, and now a number of counties, including Kent, have picked up on the idea, which comes at a vastly-reduced cost compared with touring on foreign shores.

Head coach Jimmy Adams is looking forward to making the most of it.

He said: "The whole country became very aware of it last year when Essex trialled it for pre-season training. We had a pretty wet time and the reports were favourable.

"It's going to be a first for me and quite a novel experience.

"This is fantastic because we can get the prep work done in English conditions. Going overseas, you can't take that with you. It takes time to acclimatise when you come back."

Last pre-season Kent flew to Antigua for 10 days in early March, while fellow counties also benefited from Caribbean sunshine, with Yorkshire, Warwickshire, Hampshire and Derbyshire spending time in Barbados.

It proved to be the perfect team-bonding opportunity for Adams and a squad featuring a number of new faces.

However, the 45-year-old is confident this can be replicated without the overseas trip.

He said: "Last year that [team bonding] was certainly, for myself, a much bigger factor – we had new players, whereas this year the squad is the same. It is important, but I don't see it being as critical as last year.

"Having pre-season in England means there's a few changes. That's what teams do when they evolve – pick from the good and bad and find somewhere in between."

Adams feels the days of pre-season fitness-testing being viewed negatively are over, with the modern generation of players embracing training.

Picture: ADY KERRY

UNDER COVER: Fitness coach Pete Kelly and head coach Jimmy Adams in Kent's training marquee

"I think it's decreasing now," he said.

"A lot of players now don't have the same view as my generation. It's the same way they would feel going into a game – you go into a game to find out how good you are. You go into an assessment to see if you're ready for the season.

"There's a limit on resources. We don't want to take three weeks to get them up to a certain level. Let's take three or four days so we can get on to skills-training. Cricketers are a lot more clued up these days.

"Players come wanting to do technical stuff – 'Let's get this test out of the way and move on'."

The Jamaican holds plenty of enthusiasm for the forthcoming season, having had a year to get to know the set-up at the county.

"There's always a sense of excitement going into a new season," he said.

"It was maybe a little more tense last year because it was a new environment, not knowing what to expect by way of personalities and players. Some of those questions have been answered. But there are always new questions. I'm still tremendously excited by what lies in front of us."

■ **Kent have lined up friendlies against Hampshire at the Ageas Bowl on Thursday, March 28, and Surrey at the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury on Tuesday, April 2.**

FITNESS EVOLUTION

THE county's stars will be returning to pre-season training at the start of next week already in a reasonable state of fitness – well, that's the plan anyway.

Fitness coach Pete Kelly and other coaches at St Lawrence devised personalised training regimes for the players when they left at the end of last season.

While some would have kept their fitness up through playing in Australia, like Sam Northeast and Sam Billings, and Darren Stevens in the Bangladesh Premier League, others have had the winter off, or had surgery like Ashley Shaw and Daniel Bell-Drummond, meaning the onus was on them to make sure they were ready for a return to action.

Kelly, who has been with the county since 2010, said: "They are all unique to each individual – we sit down close season and look at what they did and didn't do well, not just from a physical point of view, but we talk to the coaches and see what they need to improve on in their game.

"During the winter this year we've had more players away than normal, but in other years you get to flog them then.

"It's more enjoyable for the players and staff to see what they've achieved in their time off. It sounds like it's hard work, but we try to get them away from thinking they have to get this 'thing' done.

"I've been through numerous tests as a player and everyone always gets nervous about them, but it's a good opportunity to see what you have achieved."

Kelly, who captains Canterbury Rugby Club's first team, has seen an evolution in his plans in his three years at the county, before which physio Nimmo Reid looked after fitness coaching.

"Before I started we were the only county that didn't have a full-time trainer," he said. "It was about seeing what was in place. It has taken a big burden off Nimmo.

"It was a big learning curve for me getting them ready for a six-month county season. The nature of the game is that things can change, as far as weather affects things, or a guy gets out first ball, or bats to 100.

"Over the years, implementing programmes has evolved – we are working closely with the coaches now in this multi-disciplinary environment."

SPORTS SHORTS

FOOTBALL

Dack downs Daggers in 3-1 friendly victory

BRADLEY Dack hit a hat-trick as a youthful Gillingham side beat Dagenham & Redbridge 3-1 in a friendly.

The Gills took on the east London side on Tuesday, following a 2-1 win over John Still's men in League Two on Saturday.

First-team squad members Tommy Forecast, Callum Davies, Steve Gregory, Adam Birchall and new loan signings Ryan Williams and Michael Richardson got 65 minutes' game time at Priestfield.

Dack, who recently returned from a loan spell at Blue Square South side Braintree, put the Gills ahead twice in the first half before adding a third on the hour mark.

CRICKET

Stevens takes the last wicket to clinch BPL

KENT all-rounder Darren Stevens has helped the Dhaka Gladiators retain their Bangladesh Premier League crown.

The Gladiators beat the Chittagong Kings in the BPL final on Tuesday by 43 runs.

Stevens could only manage eight before being dismissed as the Gladiators made a total of 172 for 9 in the 20-over competition.

However, he took the match-winning wicket as the Kings were all out for 129 with three overs remaining. The 36-year-old ran out Enamul Haque at the end of the 16th over to clinch victory.

In all he hit 211 runs, averaging 35 from the 12 matches, his highest score being 55.

FOOTBALL

Holloway given Gate job for rest of season

MARGATE have confirmed caretaker manager and goalkeeper Craig Holloway will stay in his role for the rest of the season.

Holloway's assistant, former Gillingham midfielder Simon Osborn, will also stay in his position at Hartsdown Park.

Holloway took up the post last month after Chris Kinnear made the move to Dover Athletic.

Holloway said: "I'm delighted the board have given Simon and myself the opportunity to take control until the end of the season.

"We have implemented some little changes to the team over the last few games, which hopefully fans can see has improved us going forward."

CRICKET

Coles axed from Aussie tour for bad behaviour

BOWLER Matt Coles has been sent home from the England Lions tour of Australia for unprofessional conduct.

The 22-year-old Kent cricketer and Duhram all-rounder Ben Stokes have both been sent home following disciplinary hearings.

They had previously received written warnings about their conduct earlier in the tour.

Coles said: "I am very sorry about what has happened in Australia and I believe I have learnt my lesson.

"I have apologised to the players and coaches involved, so would now like to move forward from this by looking ahead to the start of the county season at Kent."

FOOTBALL

No question of Loft's loyalties for promotion run-in with Gills

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

AMID all the promotion talk and top-of-the-table rivalry brewing between Gillingham and Port Vale, there is one man who could be forgiven for trying to hide his past.

Doug Loft is the man captaining Vale on their charge towards League One, but things could have been very different for the Maidstone-born midfielder.

A hernia operation scuppered a trial at the Gills as a teenager, while two years ago he had the chance to be a part of Andy Hessenthaler's first season back at Priestfield.

Loft's first match-day experience came on the terraces of the old Rainham End with his dad and brother .

He said: "I used to go [to Gillingham] aged about seven until I was 10, back when Steve Butler was playing. I like to see how they are getting on, being my local club, but we're rivals now, so I don't support them."

Loft's path into professional football was not as conventional as most, staying on at school to study sports and business, alongside playing for England schoolboys. He did not have the traditional trainee route but was offered a professional contract at the age of 18 by Brighton – that came after a trial with Gills turned sour.

"Gillingham called me and said about going down there on trial. I got a hernia and had to have an operation and couldn't show what I could do," he said.

His only trip back to Priestfield as a fan came when he watched friend and former Gills trainee Frannie Collin, now at Tonbridge Angels, make his debut.

Having signed for Port Vale in 2009, he did make the journey back to Kent in the summer of 2011 and held talks with Hessenthaler after he started his second spell as boss.

Loft said: "I did speak to Hessy, but I was happy and settled at Port Vale. We decided to go our separate ways. If you think about the what-ifs, you would never get anywhere."

He played a key part in Vale's win at Priestfield in January, setting up both goals in their 2-1 win, with his family watching on.

Picture: ADY KERRY

CHALLENGE: Doug Loft, in white, hopes to captain Vale to promotion

LOFT'S CAREER TO DATE

- 2005-09 – **Brighton** 49 appearances, three goals
- Feb-April 2009 – **Dagenham & Redbridge** loan, 11 appearances
- June 2009 to present – **Port Vale** 143 appearances, nine goals

"I always thought Gillingham would be up there," he said.

"They have got the budget and a good team. When we were in administration it was hard because we couldn't buy players. But when we came out of administration [manager] Micky Adams signed some quality players."

The former St Simon Stock Catholic School student is not fazed by all the promotion talk and hopes to see both sides promoted.

Loft said: "I think it will be very close. There are quite a few teams that will be up there. Anyone can beat anyone in this league.

"It [promotion] hasn't been mentioned, to be honest. We have got more experience in our squad now. Promotion talk doesn't really bother me or affect me.

"If you started thinking about it, that's when you start panicking. I just concentrate on myself and my team.

"If we both go up, I would be delighted. Port Vale obviouly takes priority for me, though."

MOTORSPORT

Jackson and Smith return as Motorbase eyes the top

MOTORBASE Performance has tied Mat Jackson and Aron Smith down for the forthcoming British Touring Car Championships season in their next-generation machines.

Having switched Jackson to the new-spec NGTC Ford Focus ST midway through last season with impressive results, both he and race partner Smith will start this season in the cars.

It has given team principal David Bartrum plenty of hope that they can have one of their most competitive years ever.

He said: "We're incredibly excited about this season. It's great to be starting with two drivers that know the team so well – consistency is key at such an important time with our own car, and it means we can get straight to work.

"With Mat and Aron back on board, I believe we have one of the strongest driver pairings on the grid. Mat has shown his BTCC pedigree over past few years and, with the new NGTC up to speed, I fully expect him to be up there battling for the

AMBITION: Smith, Bartrum and Jackson all set

title. It's also great to have Aron back in the Motorbase family – he had a great debut season last year, finishing on a high, and with the new car I'm sure there's much more to come.

"The NGTC exceeded everyone's expectations last year, and with the work and developments we've made over the winter I'm confident that we will be serious title contenders in 2013."

This will be 31-year-old Jackson's fourth season with Motorbase, while 23-year-old Smith is in his second year.

Liam Griffin is also set to return in the S2000 Focus vehicle following a frustrating season last year and will be competing in the BTCC Jack Sears Trophy.

"I'm realistic in my hopes for 2013. I'm never going to be competing on the same level as the likes of Mat Jackson and Matt Neal," said the 39-year-old.

"But I do think I'm capable of mixing it up in the middle of the pack and the Jack Sears Trophy offers up something for those of us further down the grid to focus on.

"Let's be honest, my BTCC Trophy cabinet's never going to be full, but at least I'll have a good shot at one this year."

■ **The BTCC season starts at Brands Hatch on the weekend of March 30-31.**

Gills team of the Century

This season marks the 100th anniversary of the Gills being known as Gillingham, having originally being founded as New Brompton. We are celebrating those we think deserve a place in the team of the century.

ANDY HESSENTHALER

DOB: August 17, 1965
Gills stats: 364 appearances, 29 goals
Clubs: Redbridge Forest, Watford, Gillingham, Hull, Barnet

'MR Gillingham' or Andy Hessenthaler, as he is better known, is a figure synonymous with the Gills both on and off the pitch in the modern era.

The tough-tackling and energetic midfielder soon became a fans' favourite at Priestfield after signing for a reported record fee of £235,000 in 1996.

Hess was a latecomer into the professional game, having worked as a builder while playing for Dartford, Corinthian and Redbridge Forest. He got his big break when Watford signed him in 1991 from Redbridge, going on to make 195 appearances for the Hornets before leaving for the Gills when they were relegated from the First Division in 1996.

He made his debut on the opening game of the Division Two season in a 3-2 win over Bristol City and went on to appear 47 times in that campaign, as he would do for the following two years.

His all-action performances were an integral part of the Gills' promotion push in 1998/99 as they reached the Division Two play-off final against Manchester City – thanks to his winner in the semi-final play-off against Preston North End.

The following year Gills won promotion via a play-off-final win over Wigan Athletic. He then became player-manager following Peter Taylor's move to Leicester City.

Hessenthaler guided Gillingham to their best-ever Football League finish of 11th in Division One in the 2002/03 season but stepped down in November of the following season after a poor start.

He stayed on as player but departed in January 2006 for Barnet in League Two, returning in 2011 for two seasons as manager until stepping down to become Gills director of football, a post he still has.

■ **So, do you agree?** Send in your opinions on our choice or who you think would have been a better option. Email **greg.miles@archant.co.uk** or write to **Sport, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth TN25 6SR**

Team sheet

1) Ron Hillyard
2) Steve Bruce
3) Chris Hope
4) Charlie Marks
5) Dennis Hunt
6) Andy Hessenthaler
7) ???????
8) ???????
9) ???????
10) ???????
11) ???????

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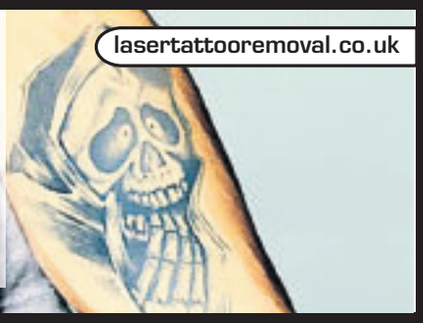

Celebrating 10 years

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